
LETTERS
TO A
NOBLEMAN
From a Gentleman
Travelling through
HOLLAND, FLANDERS,
AND
FRANCE, &c.

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From a Gentleman travelling thro'

Holland, Flanders and France.

WITH A

DESCRIPTION

OF

G HENT, L I S L E, &c.

And of the Courts of

Versailles and St. Germains.

L O N D O N :

Printed for Daniel Midwinter at the Three
Crowns in St. Paul's Church-Yard. 1709.

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From a Gentleman travelling thro'

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DESCRIPTION



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And of the Courts of

Norfolk and St. German

LONDON:

Printed for Daniel Midwinter at the Lion
in St. Paul's Church-Yard 1792.

To the Right Honourable

ANTHONY

Earl of S H A F T E S B U R Y,

Lord *Ashley* of *Wynburn*, St. Giles's,

A N D

Lord *Cooper* of *Paulet*.

May it please Your Lordship,

Custom, and the Malevolence of
Mankind, have brought those
that write under a sort of Necessity of
craving the Protection of the Power-
ful, the Noble, and the Good, to the
End that their August and Auspicious
Name may shield and defend their
Writings against the Efforts and At-
tempts

tempts of those whose Malice, or whose Interest, might prompt them to defame or injure them.

If the Protection of those who are Eminently Good, as well as Great and Noble, be sufficient, then am I sure I am entirely safe under that of Your Lordship, who are as Illustrious by Your Virtuous Exemplary Life, as by Your Glorious Titles, whereby You are so justly plac'd among the First Nobility of the Kingdom.

The Honour I had of being taught the First Principles of Religion and Learning in Your Lordship's Society and Company, as it may seem to intitle Your Lordship to the Offering of my First Fruits, so it gave me the First Opportunities of nearly observing, and being thoroughly acquainted with Your Lordship's both Natural, and Acquir'd Perfections. I remember, even in those Early Days, Your Lordship's prodigious Natural Sense, and wonderful Quickness in making Your Self
Master

Master of all Parts of Learning, was the Admiration of all that beheld You. To these extraordinary natural Parts, heighthened by the nicest Education, Your Lordship has added all the Improvements which intense Study, Travelling, and the most exquisite Observations of the different Natures, Tempers, Opinions, and Inclinations of Mankind afford.

These mighty Endowments and Accomplishments, with Your perfect Knowledge of the different Interests of all the Courts of *Europe*, and your consummate Politicks, with your pious Life, and true, old, *Roman*, uncorrupted Virtue, make you so deservedly looked on and esteemed as one of the greatest Genius's of the Kingdom.

Thus, my Lord, in the Flower of your Age, while other Nobles whose Natural Parts are weaker, and whose Education being more neglected, has consequently been more unhappy, are dazled and charm'd with the outward

Splendours of a Court; are rack'd and tormented with the Cares of Ambition, are daily bowing, cringing and waiting, are practising all the Backbitings, Detractions, and all the rest of the sinister Practices, too often us'd by the Great Ones to recommend themselves to Places and Offices of Trust, and are many times wounded to the very Soul with the stabbing killing Thoughts which disappointed Envy, or Pride neglected create; these, my Lord, do you with pitying Eyes behold, sedate, content, and truly happy, having found out the Way of joining perfect Goodness to your Greatness: And there being no Post or Place in the Kingdom for which you are not every way qualified, all Parties, all Sides, with equal Zeal and Emulation, strive to court and gain you, thinking themselves happy in your Approbation, which they boast of as a great Weight to their Party: The Government it self would be proud, and think them-

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themselves oblig'd to your Lordship for your Assistance ; while you, like a wise and coy Mistress, will not espouse any, because they court you more for their own Interest than yours ; they would make you their gilded Idol, and worship you, not for the glorious Virtues you are Master of, but for the Benefit they would reap by your happy Administration : They would have you, like many other Great Men, sacrifice all the real, more substantial and divine Joys of Life, of which your Lordship is in full Possession, to the empty Name of popular Applause. But your Lordship, satisfied that 'tis more triumphant to deserve, than to wear a Crown, and armed with the Example of that Great and Glorious Patriot your Grandfather, who sacrific'd so much, and even in some Sense his Life, for the Good of his Country, and by the Dictates of perfect Wisdom and consummate Prudence, sees, thro' the Disguise, that Coronets as well as
Crowns

Crowns are lin'd with Thorns, which often rack the very Brains of those that wear them, while the outward Pomp of Power is not an adequate Recompence for the Toils that attend it ; and therefore the Emperor *Charles V.* and other Great Minds, laid down and quitted their Diadems and Purple with greater Joy than they received them. How extravagant then, as well as vicious, must be the Passion of those Men, who, rather than not have a Place, will use Bribery, or other the most corrupt Practices to obtain it ? An Evil which, if once crept into and winked at by the Legislature, is alone capable of ruining the Kingdom, while the Wicked and Corrupt Men will put themselves in, and all the Good and Virtuous out of the Administration ; and by that Means, if the Proverb holds good, of *Those that buy must sell*, even our most sacred Rights will be betrayed and sold to our greatest Enemies. In *Holland* this Vice is as yet a Stranger ; and 'tis this Consideration,

tion, with that of your Lordship's true untainted Virtue, that emboldens me to present to your View the Picture of this Wise and Virtuous Commonwealth, greater in its glorious Actions than in the Extent of its Territories: brought forth it was in the hardest extreamest Necessity, nurs'd up by the strictest Vertue, and is now rais'd to so great a Pitch of Power and Glory, that from having their Sovereignty even refus'd by all their Neighbours as irretrievable from the Oppression of *Spain*, (at that Time the most formidable Power upon Earth, and which grasped with so great Probability of Success at the universal Monarchy) after the longest and bloodiest War that ever was read of, of no less than Eighty Years, they not only brought *Spain* to so low a Pitch, that it fatally languishes to this Day, but they are now become the Head, and as it were the Spring of all the Affairs of *Europe*. Their Commerce is universal, and almost incredible; their numberless

berless Fleets strike Terror in every Sea, and their victorious Land Troops gather Lawrels in the most distant Kingdoms. *Spain* it self, once so terrible to them, would now sink beneath a forreign Force without their Aid; *Portugal*, *Catalonia*, and the most distant Empires of the *East* and *West-Indies*, with Earnestness beg, and with Joy receive their powerful Assistance; *Great Britain* it self cultivates it with extreamest Care, hoping by it to bring *France*, all proud and towring as she is, with the universal Empire of *Europe* in her View, to so low a Pitch, as to submit to a Peace even more inglorious than the last: They are become the Umpire the Arbiters of Peace and War, not only of all *Europe*, but of almost the whole World; and this in the short Space of one Age, for 'tis little more from the very first Foundation of this Common-wealth in 1579. and not much above Fifty Years since they were absolutely owned a free and independant State

State by the Peace of *Munster*, 1648. And all this have they effected, not by the Methods of Fraud or Perjury, nor by those of Force and Violence, but by those of the most consummate Wisdom, Piety, Justice, and Faith to their Leagues, which they have ever kept sacred and inviolable: They have ever had the Good and Peace of the whole World, as well as the Welfare of their State, (which they have no way thought inconsistent) for their constant Aim, which they have ever pursued amidst the greatest Difficulties. They first drew their Sword to vindicate their own Rights against a mighty Oppressor, and they have ever since been the constant Assertors of the publick Liberties of *Europe*: they have always made the Defence of publick Liberty, and of the Protestant Religion, not the enslaving of their Neighbours, the End of their Wars; nor can there be a greater Proof of this, than their
Mode-

Moderation in this present War ; Are they not in Possession of the better Part of the *Spanish* Provinces? Have not the Countries of *Leige*, and those bordering on the *Rhine*, the *Maese* and the *Moselle*, been conquered by their victorious Arms ; and at the Expence of the Lives and Estates of their Subjects? Do they claim them for themselves? Do they insist on their Right of Conquest? No ; they desire only to keep their own in Peace ; the rest ; with a Moderation never enough to be commended or equall'd, all the rest ; they restore to their right Owners, their lawful Sovereigns. Our late Union, and *Hannover*-Succession, they were so far from opposing, that they were both projected by the late King *William*, with their Privity, and seconded with all their Power ; and their Love to the Protestant Religion, and to the Welfare of *Great Britain*, makes them sincere Well-wishers to them both. This, my Lord, is nothing but real
Truth,

Truth, and plain evident Matter of Fact. But the true Cause of the quick Growth of this Great Power and Happiness, is not so obvious to every Traveller, whether proceeding from that most strict Sobriety and Vertue, as well the Cause as the Effect of Prudence and Wisdom, and which is nowhere practised in so great Perfection as in this State; or from the Moistness, Flegm and Temper of their Climate, the Nature and Parsimony of their Diet, the Excellence of their Religion, or, which I rather think, from their sincere, honest, and virtuous Education. And indeed, my Lord, whoever will duly reflect on the Force and Power of Education, and what Influence our first Notions and Principles of things have over us, will be but too apt to attribute all the Differences in Religion as well as Politicks, several Customs and Habits of the Body, and perhaps all other Differences that are between Men, except those of their
natural

natural Parts to the Force and Power of Education alone, and more than People are generally aware of. And hence is it, that we daily see how difficult, if not impossible it is, for all the Power of Letters, of Learning, of Argument or Reason, nay often for the most exquisite Torments, to eradicate the Notions instill'd into us in our Infancy with our Mother's Milk; and therefore, rather than to any other Cause, I shou'd attribute the strange Power and Happiness of this State, to the admirable, wise and prudent Education and Conduct of their Women, who are bred up in the utmost Chastity and Modesty, and plain down-right Honesty and Truth; and being better provided for by the Laws of their Country, than in other Nations, are not forc'd to trust to their Wits, nor put on those poor pitiful Shifts to jilt Mankind, and bubble their Husbands for Money; nor do they sacrifice the Propagation and Increase of Mankind to the Airy weak

weak and Notional Pleasures of Pride, Ambition, Titles or Riches, as is too much practised in other Nations, but making the Propagation of Mankind in the best and wisest manner, the greatest Foundation of their Converse with their Husbands, it seems of Consequence their Children should be strongest and soundest both in Mind and Body; and this is much encouraged by the Form of their Government, in which there is the greatest Equality of any perhaps on Earth, and the most adapted for the general Gain of the People. And this Consideration of the Happiness and Misery, the Riches and Poverty of the People, leads me naturally into that of the Government of *France*, whose Condition is miserable and deplorable, whether we regard the firm Establishment of the Romish Religion, so manifestly destructive both to the Increase of Trade, and of Mankind it self; or that despotick arbitrary Government, where the Lives and Estates of so many Millions of

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Mankind are subjected to the lawless Will of one single Prince, whose extravagant Profusion has expended above Fifty Millions Sterling in his delicious Palaces at *Versailles, Marli, Trianon, &c.* rioting himself in the utmost licentious Excesses; while Thousands of his poor unhappy Subjects are rotting and starving in the Streets for want: And whose boundless Ambition and faithless Perjury, has thrown away and sacrificed the Lives of 2500000 Men, besides the Loss of their Product, and Sums, as incredible as they are numberless. From his Example, an Air of Pride and Force runs through all Ranks, from the highest to the lowest of the People; and to this foolish Notion of Pride and Quality are sacrificed all the more essential Joys of Peace, of Plenty, and of Trade; nay, so far are they intoxicated with it, that even the most Sacred Rules, of right and wrong, must give Place to it; while (by one of the most notorious and weakest Perjuries that ever was) he has plac'd his
Grand-

Grandson on the Throne of *Spain*, which is like to cost *France* so dear, while it has entail'd on *Spain* a controverted Title ; God Almighty, by so eminent an Example, convincing us of the Danger of the weak, but fatal Distinction between the Letter and the Meaning of a Treaty, or of trusting to a shuffling, cunning, knavish, jugling, so much the Characteristical Mark of the *French*, that in some of our *French* Refugees here, I have observ'd it to descend even to the Third Generation ; rather than to downright Honesty and Truth, so necessary for Trade and the Riches of a People : And therefore if the Riches and Poverty of the People be the Mark of a good or bad Government, as surely in a great measure it ought, then that of *France* is one of the worst. But, *My Lord*, I shall not here enter into the Old and Great Debate, which is the best Form of Government, in which the Pens of the Greatest Men, in all Ages, have been drawn ; nor whether Monarchy, or indeed any

Government at all be *Jure Divino*: But I believe, most wise Men will agree in the noted Maxim of *Salus populi suprema lex*; and therefore where the People are most wisely and best taken Care of, according to their Climate, Situation, Religion, Laws and Customs, that seems the best Government, at least for that People: And hence it is that Almighty God, who with watchful Eyes governs the World, has ordain'd so many different Forms of Government in it. One great Misfortune seems to attend Monarchical Government, which is a Controverted Title; of which, whoever reads the History of the bloody Wars between the Houses of *Tork* and *Lancaster*, will have most dreadful Apprehensions: But this is, and ought always to be a Comfort to all Wise and Good Men, that Right will at last take Place; Fraud, Perjury and Treachery may overreach it, Force and Violence may bear it down and oppress it, for a Time it may seem to sink, but 'tis to rise with the greater Glory; for the God of Justice, who is
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Almighty, is on that Side, and sooner or later, must, and will vindicate and restore it. But these Considerations would carry me too far, and I should trespass too much on your Lordship's Time, and therefore shall conclude with giving your Lordship some Account of the following Sheets : And first, as to the Topographical or Local Descriptions, Curiosities, Distances, &c. in my Travelling, I always carried with me Seven or Eight Books, and indeed all the best Books that I knew treated of the Places I design'd for ; when I came to any Town, I immediately read over all what every one of those Books said concerning that Town, and then made it my Business carefully and diligently to view all those things, with whatever else I could hear was remarkable in that Place ; upon my own Sight all what I found really and truly remarkable, I immediately clap'd into my Journal, and omitted all the rest ; but were I to tell your Lordship the innumerable Mistakes, trifling Observations, and even
many

many times Falsities I found in the Books, and how different from what I saw, 'twould be endless; let it suffice, that there is nothing but what I really thought worth Observation contain'd in the following Sheets; and that besides an exact and particular Account of all the *English* Popish Convents both for Men and Women, all that is truly remarkable, at least in those Places, is therein contain'd; so that a Traveller need only take this Book in his Hand without any other Guide, at least so far as it goes, which is over the most part of *Holland*, the Frontiers of *Flanders*, and of *France*, and a good Part of *France* it self. As for some other Calculations, it was impossible, in the Nature of them, I could be so exact; all that I could do, was to take my Information from the most sober, prudent, and disinterested Persons I could meet with, and in that I took as much care as possible, and I believe they are generally pretty near the Truth, which, notwithstanding the Common Proverb,
I think

I think, ought to be as sacred and is as graceful and commendable in the Mouth of a Traveller, as in the Mouth of any other Gentleman; and so long as that is kept to, I hope a little warmth in the Stile may be pardoned, in Praise of the *Dutch*, who are of the same Religion vvith our selves, and vvwhose Interest it is to support us, to screen themselves from the terrible Povver of *France*; and vvwhose Provinces have ever been a safe and kind Azilum for all Great and Good *Englisbmen*, vvhom the iniquity of the Times or the unjust and villanous Practices of a wicked Faction and Cabal, have driven from their Native Country; vvwhile the Interest Religion and Friendship of *France*, hath ever been fatal and ruinous to this Nation; and therefore, especially novv vve are at War vvith it, I think it a piece of good Service to vvean and take off that pernicious Fondness of many *Englisb* Gentlemen, vvhom nothing pleases so much as the *French* Tongue, *French* Ayr,

Ayr, *French* Wine, *French* Cooks, *French* Carriage, *French* Servants, *French* Mistresses, *French* Dances, and too often *French* Surgeons too; for having travel'd into *France*, and left there their Money, and brought Home *French* Vices and Diseases, to the Disgrace of the Nation, they are glad to make use of those Surgeons, vvho best understand their Distempers.

Much more might be added on this Head, had I not been already too tedious to Your Lordship, for which I heartily beg Pardon, and assure You that I am, with the utmost Respect and Zeal,

YOUR LORDSHIP'S

Most Obedient,

And

Most Humble Servant,

Joseph Shaw

TRAVELS
THROUGH
Holland, Flanders,
AND
FRANCE, &c.

LETTER I.

Utrecht.

My Lord,

I Should have begun this Letter with begging your Pardon for giving you the Trouble of reading it, if your Lordships Commands had not obliged me to inform you, That on Friday Morn-

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Travels through Holland, &c.

ing last, after a very pleasant Passage, I landed at the *Briell*, a strong Town near the Mouth of the *Maese*, the first seiz'd on in the Revolt of the *Seven Provinces* from the Government of *Spain*, and one of the Cautionary Towns to Queen *Elizabeth* who well knew its Importance, tho' now it seems not to be fully Peopled.

From thence I had intended directly for *Rotterdam*, and so to begin my Tour of *Holland*, and to take *Utrecht*, *Loo*, and *Dieren*, in my way back to *Flanders*; but the Pleasure as well as Benefit I found in the Clergyman's Conversation, which I owe to your Lordships Favour, prevail'd with me to alter that Resolution, and to accompany him to *Loo*; and I was fortunate in it, since it has given me the Opportunity of seeing the approaching Review, which I had otherwise lost. Therefore hiring a Post-Waggon, we set out next Morning from the *Briell*, and we had not gone many Miles, e'er I thought it odd enough to see some Boors going a Milking, and others carrying their Hay, Milk, Butter, Roots, &c. to Market in little *Schuyts* or Boats, instead of the Land Carriage we use in *England*. The Country beyond *Rotterdam*, bordering on the *Maese*, is, as you know, nothing but Meadow
of

of a vast Extent, and perfectly level, chequer'd with an infinite Number of Canals, which serve the People, besides the Bounds of Property, for their ordinary Passage for their Rural Affairs, in a Country that would be otherwise unpassable, but on such Dykes or Causeys as we found our Road, and on this raised Way we pass'd the Morning, and about Noon arriv'd at *Tergow* or *Goude*, a large *Goude*. Town, having a Voice in the States of the Province of *Holland*; 'tis strong, well-built, famous for its large Marketplace, pretty Town-House and Church with painted Windows.

And in the Afternoon, having pass'd thro' a Country abounding with Hemp, and through *Oudwater*, not large, but strong, and regularly fortify'd; and then thro' a Country much resembling *England*, we arriv'd at this Place, where I had Recommendatory Letters to deliver to some Gentlemen, whose extream Civilities, with the Pleasures of the Town, will make me leave them with regret. *Oudwater.* *Utrecht.*

This is the Capital City of the Province of *Utrecht*, seated on the *Old Rhine* which passes thro' it; and the Things that seem most Remarkable to Strangers; are the Mint, where I coined a Ducat d'Or; the two *Wees-Houses* or

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Hospitals for the Orphans ; the Chancel of the *Rhine* ; the *Tuchthuyse*, or *Bridewell* ; the *Almosineer's Camer*, or Charity-Chamber ; the *Dolhuys*, or Bedlam ; the *Sonnenburgh*, or *Physick-Garden* , the *Mall*, *Hieronimus's* School ; the House in which the Emperor *Charles* the Vth's Tutor, afterwards Pope *Adrian* the VIth, was born, and the House which he built ; the *Hoff-Propincial*, or Seat of the Provincial Courts of Justice ; the *Stadt-Camer*, or Chambers of Assembly for the States of the Province ; the *Accademy*, or Publick Schools ; the *Dome* and *Biscop's-Hoff*, now the Residence of the Countess of *Solm's* ; the Town-House and *Hazenburgh*, or the Prison ; eleven Churches, and as many Hospitals. The best Buildings are on the New Grass, and round *St. John's* Church yard : But to a Man come from *England*, (where publick Ornament is devour'd by private Luxury) nothing about this Town creates more Wonder or Pleasure, than the Alleys of Trees planted in the Meadows, by the *Katharina* Port, and the Pavement from the *Witte-vrouw's* Port to the *Bieet*. This Town contains about Six thousand Houses, and is Five fourths of a League in Circumference ; is ill fortify'd, well built, very neat, and filled with Gentry, of which both Sexes wear

wear Habits after the *French* Mode, and practising much Civility, a Vein of which runs thro' all, even to the Ordinary People of the Town, beyond most others of the Seventeen Provinces. The University of this Place is nothing, if compared to the *English*; one of its greatest Lights is *Grevius*, with whom I have convers'd; but his Character is too great for my Pen to attempt. In this Town, in 1579. was made the famous UNION, which ever since has born the Name of the *Union of Utrecht*, and is, as it were the Paw of the *Belgick-Lyon* holding the Seven Arrows together.

Thus have I given your Lordship what Account of my Tour hitherto, so young a Traveller, ignorant of the Language of the Country, was able; which will be trivial to your Lordship, who are so perfectly versed in all the Seven Provinces. But I beg you to consider, That nothing gave Birth to it, more than your Commands; and I assure you, That it will be the utmost Satisfaction to me, at my Return to *England*, to find that I have sent but one Remark worthy your Lordships View, and that with the utmost Respect I subscribe my self,

Your Lordships, &c

B 3

LET.

LETTER II.

*Dieren.**My Lord,*

IN Expectation of arriving at *Loo* by Day-light, having been told it was not a Journey of above Eight Hours, we parted at Noon from *Utrecht*, (where the last Account of my Tour ended) and having paid each of us a Styver for travelling on *Sunday*, we passed thro' the *Witte-vrouw* Gate, and entered on a paved Cawsey, planted on each Side with lovely Trees, and adorned with Gentlemen's Houses, frontispeiced with the Arms and Names of their several Families, which (in a Day one of the brightest I had ever known) created a Scene, whose perfect Description wou'd appear more like a pleasing Fiction of some Romance, than Truth.

This delightful Way having entertain'd us for almost an Hour, open'd at last on a vast Plain, over which we travel'd for above Three Hours, when we arrived at *Amersford*, seated in the Province of *Utrecht*, on the little River *Eem*, which passes thro' it, leaves it its Name, and

and soon after empties it self in the *Zuyder-Zee*. The Town is Old, and one of the worst built in the Seven Provinces. Here they gave us some Information of the Way, but told us we could lie nowhere between that and *Loo*, and that it would not be safe travelling late, because of the scattered Parties of Soldiers on all Sides marching to the Review, and who might meet and plunder us.

Thus caution'd, and having, for the Reason aforesaid, left some Passage-Styvers at this Town Gate, we proceeded for *Dieren*; and passing some neighbouring Inclosures, we found our selves again on the fine Heath, whose great Extent of Sixteen Hours, without the Interruption of scarce any House, Ditch or Tree, renders it so proper for all sort of Sports, that it is deservedly chosen for the Place of Scituation both of *Loo* and *Dieren*: And with much Pleasure troll'd we it on while Day-light shew'd our Way; but about Nine of the Clock, after having been for some Hours alone in the endless Desert, not able to speak one Word of the Language of the Country, we found the Road split into two; and absolute Darkness had now rendred our Eyes of so little use, that we were all forced to alight, and for about half an Hour with our Hands grope, and by the Largeness

of the Tracts to discover the most probable Way. In this Condition we were reduced to such a perplexed Uncertainty, that the Doctor was for taking up his Quarters there all Night, and I had much ado (tho' back'd both by the Coachman and Footman) to perswade him to pursue that Way that seem'd most probable, and which, how probable soever it seem'd, in about an Hour grew so very narrow, as to admit but one Coach abreast, and brought us at last into a Wood, so thick, that the Trees hinder'd us from advancing any faster than almost an insensible Pace, and gave me some slight Apprehensions of Mischiefe; augmented by the Doctor's Representations of our Wickedness in travelling on the Sabbath, and of the Probability of a Conspiracy between the Coachman and Footman in their Language, (unknown to us) to decoy us into a Place so horrid, on some bloody Design. But the Caution at *Amersford*, against travelling so late, suggested to me the greatest Danger; and I assure you, I was never better satisfied with my self in my Life, than when I considered I had had the Precaution to bring my Pistols in my Pockets, charged, from *Utrecht*. Thus had we heavily moved on a considerable Time in an universal Silence, induced by sad Reflections, when,

when, on a sudden, in the Middle of this dark Wood, some Men cry'd out aloud, *Hold—Stand!* There needed no more to confirm all our Fears; and I must confess to your Lordship, all prepossess'd as I was, with all the Circumstances in such a Place and Time, I thought I heard the Signal for an Attack that would probably put an End to my Travels with my Life, and immediately cock'd my Pistols with the same Rage, I would defend my self against my Murderers, and with a Resolution more fatal to them than theirs was to us, since they proved honeste than expected, it being nothing but some Carriages returning from *Loo*, which we passed by with a great deal of Difficulty, and not long after, the Wood; and about Eleven of the Clock, thro' the Goodness of God, we arrived safe at *Loo*, where we were *Loo.* glad to give Half a Crown for a Bed not worth Two Pence, and contented enough to hear that the King was at *Die-ren*, to be near the Review, because his Absence, and some Letters I had to deliver there, would give us a free Passage over all; which we found verify'd the next Morning, having had the Satisfaction of throughly seeing that Palace that makes so much Noise in these Parts of the World. 'Tis scituated on a rising Ground,

in the midst of a boundless Plain, adapted for the Chase: 'Tis all new-built after the Modern Architecture, with Sash-Windows: In the Front are the Apartments, and in the Wings the Offices and Stables proper and convenient; but by the Size, Magnificence and Pride, it seems design'd more for the Prince of *Orange* than a King of *England*, and inferior to the Grandeur of that Great Prince, who govern'd at that Time so great a Part of the World, whose mighty Genius actuated *Europe*, and whom Mighty Monarchs were proud to obey. But the Woods, Gardens, Cascades, Water-works and *Menagerie*, are surprisingly fine, and wou'd afford sufficient Subject for the most luscious Description of a boundless Fancy and more eloquent Pen, that can give a Loose to Thoughts, and with all the charming Arts of well chose pleasing Words, bewitch as much your Ears as the Sight does the Eyes of those that do behold them; but the Sense of my own Incapacity, as well as the Restraint I give to my Observations (which I purposely confine to the Dispositions, Government, Manners, Power, and Trade of our Neighbours) convince me, such a Description would be as much above my Power, as it would exceed the Bounds to which I am limited.

From

From *Loo*, with our Curiosity fully satisfy'd, we pass'd on thro' a Continuation of the Heath, for five Hours, to *Dieren*, scituated by a little Village of *Dieren*. the same Name, almost on the Edge of the Plain and of *Guelderland*, on a small Descent, and the approaching Lands in Winter subject to Inundations. Its greatest Beauties are its Avenues, and what they call the *Berceau*; in its Buildings, Gardens, and all other Respects, inferior much to *Loo*. We arrived at *Dieren* in the Evening extreamly hungry, for which, with the Help of a good Friend of the Doctor's, we found a pleasant Antidote in the King's Pantry, where a great Variety of excellent Food and sparkling Champagne, made us remember our Friends in *England*, and forget all our Trouble. The next Morning I had the Honour of being at the King's *Levee*, and (most of his Retinue being at the Camp) there were not present above 11 or 12 Persons, and among them the Prince of *Friezland*, newly come to pay his Duty to His Majesty. He was about Thirteen Years old, a Fine, Grave, Man-like Youth; and for about half an Hour, that I had the Honour of standing very near him, I heard him discourse with the King, Monsieur d'*Auverquerque*, and the Marquis of *Monpouillon*, with a Sense

Sense much superior to his Age. This Young Prince is the Hopes of the Seven Provinces. From thence I follow'd His Majesty to the Review, where were about 18000 Men of the choicest of the *Dutch* Troops; an honest Sobriety reign'd among them, without that nauseous enervating Debauchery, the most dangerous Enemy to an *English* Army; they were well paid, well fed, well arm'd, well disciplin'd, in good Equipage, but not tawdry; tho' my Lord *Albermarl's* Regiment of Horse appeared above the rest, and engross'd the Eyes of almost all the numerous Spectators. They all seem'd to be to His Majesty's Satisfaction; and I assure you 'twas a Pleasure to view 'em, and to think such a Body of fine Land-Troops were so firmly in the Interest of *England*; tho' a partial *Englishman* was pleas'd to assert, That a peaceable Heaviness seated on their Faces, seem'd to say, they were more proper to defend than to attack, while they wanted that devouring Fierceness, that haughty Air made to command, that makes its Way where-ever it goes; whose very Appearance strikes Terrors in the Hearts of those made to obey, and looks them into Submission, and is so conspicuous in the Mein of those

those that are used to conquer, and that are flush'd with Victory, which, after all our Industry and Care, cannot be acquir'd by any Human Means, since the Almighty hath reserved it to his own Disposal; to whose All-powerful Protection I heartily recommend your Lordship, assuring you that I am, with all due Respect,

Your Lordships, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R III.

*Hague.**My Lord,*

HAVING, from what I observ'd in the Camp, been able to form a Judgment of the Land-Forces of the *United-Provinces*; in order to gain a more perfect Knowledge of the Strength and Weakness of this State, I thought it advisable to view some of their Fortify'd Towns: And the Garisons being march'd to the Review, afforded me a free Passage into many Places, which otherwise the Guard had stopp'd, without expresse Leave from the Governours.

Arnhem.

From the Camp then I came to *Arnhem*, scituated on the *Rhine*, near the *Drusian* Ditch that joins that River with the *Iffel*; 'tis an old ill-built Town, but is the Chamber of Justice for the *Dutch-Guelderland*, pretty large, and encompass'd with broad Ditches, but its Fortifications a little neglected. Here, tho' I found pretty good Accommodation, yet so great a Conflux of People had rais'd all Things to such an exorbitant Price, that I was very glad to decamp,

camp, and in Four Hours in a *Trek-schuyt* on the Canal, I came to *Nimeguen*, seat- *Nimeguen.*
ed at the deepest Place of the greatest Branch of the *Rhine*, called the *Wahal*, over half of which we pass'd by a Bridge, which ending in the middle of the River, we were receiv'd by a prodigious Machine in the nature of a Ferry, but perhaps no where to be equal'd; its Description would probably exceed Belief, since it may be your Lordship will be surprized to hear that there were seven or eight Carts loaded with Hay, &c. abundance of Horses, and about Seventy or Eighty Persons, all at a time convey'd on it, and it might at once transport a much greater Number; and all this by the Help of two or three Men. *Nimeguen* is large, pleasantly and strongly situated, but its Fortifications in no Condition, and its Castle in Ruins; its University not worth Notice; but the Prospect here, called *Belvedere*, may be esteem'd one of the most extensive and diverting in *Europe*. In this City was concluded the famous Peace in 1678. and those whose Curiosity was as great as mine, may still see the several Lodgings of the Ambassadors who transacted it. While I was there, there happen'd a General Meeting of the Clergy or Church-Assembly, who eating at my Quarters.

Quarters, permitted me to eat with them; and I assure your Lordship, I was extreamly pleas'd with the Company, the Cheer, and the Price.

Grave.

From *Nimeguen* in Six Hours by Land, I came to *Grave*, belonging, in propriety, to the late King; its fine Fortifications, all of Brick, and consisting of Seven Bastions, as many Half-Moons, a Cover'd-Way, and broad Ditches, fed by the *Maese* on which it is seated, declare at once its careful Owner, and give a wonderful Pleasure and Content to the observing Traveller. This Town, tho' small, is of great Importance, by reason of its Scituation.

Among other Accommodations here, I ought not to forget the Civilities of my Landlady's Sister, who was Young and Handsome, and who spoke good *French*, (a Qualification very agreeable to me who spoke so little *Dutch*): To her I was oblig'd for my Admission into and Passage over, all the *Beguynhoff*, or Nunnery there, and the Neighbouring Convent of *Capucins*; which were Favours not usually granted to Strangers, at least not to *Protestants*.

Boisleduc.

From *Grave*, in Seven Hours by Land, over a Moorish Country, I came to *Boisleduc*, deservedly esteem'd one of the strongest Places in *Europe*: Its Scituation

on is on the River *Domele*, newly swelled with the *Aede* and *Diese*, and on all Sides, for about a League, encompass'd with Water, defended by a Cittadel, one of the finest Pantagons that can be seen; and the two Causeys, by which alone they enter the Town, being entirely commanded by the Forts *St. Andrew* and *Isabella*, it seems impregnable, and therefore the *French* durst not attack it in 1672. tho' the driest Summer ever known. 'Tis a fine large Town adorned with the richest Church I have seen, formerly a Cathedral dedicated to *St. John*. It has a magnificent new-built Town-House, fronting a large well-built Market-Place; not far from which is a Chamber, resembling our *Gresham Colledge*, one of whose greatest Rarities is a large Horn, as big as a Rams, which really and naturally grew out of the Head of a Woman not long since deceas'd.

From this Town I went down the River, which in a little time brought me into the *Maese*; and having pass'd two or three Sconces, and the Fort *Loevestein*, (which Commands the River, and was the Prison of the Great *Grotius*) and the pretty, neat, and strong Town of *Workum* and *Gorkum*, almost opposite to it; in Eight Hours I came to

C

Dort,

Dort.

Dort, which has the First Voice in the Assembly of the States of *Holland*, a large Trading Town, in which I found little remarkable, but the Room in which was held the famous Synod in 1618. and 1619. the Mint, good *Rhenish*-Wine and Salmon, and bad Cooks; a handsome *French* Church, and a large *Dutch* one.

From *Dort*, in four Hours on the *Rotterdam. Maese*, I came to *Rotterdam*, so named from the River *Rotte* that there joins the *Maese* which washes the whole Front of the Town, and by means of mighty Canals, wafts Ships, even of the greatest Burthen, into its very Bowels; and the rest of the City is encompass'd with Ditches of a vast Breadth, and a very fine Walk of Trees: Its chiefest Bridge is very broad, and is the greatest Market-Place of the whole Town, adorn'd with the Statue of *Erasmus*, the House of whose Birth they still shew with great Veneration, and tell you they are beholden to him for the Invention of their Turf, the common Fuel of their Country. This City is strongly scituated, is almost an Hour and half's Walk round; contains about 8000 Houses, and is filled with a great Number of *English*, for whom there is a Church for the Common-Prayer Service; but what

renders it the Object of Envy and Astonishment, and seems to reproach the sloathful private spirited and inglorious Stranger, that all amazed views it, is that vigorous, active, publick spirited Industry, which actuates its great Numbers of People, and discovers it self with that Grandeur and haughty Magnificence in their Admiralty, *East-India* House, Dock-or Yard for Ships, stupendious Graffs, or Canals, Bridges, and other Publick Ornaments; just Ideas of which, 'tis not easie to conceive and form. 'Tis this indefatigable Industry that causes here such Incredible Traffick, and which gives her such visible, and even daily Augmentations, as makes her look'd on as the most Thriving Town in the Seventeen Provinces; and which being younger and more active, seems to make brisker Efforts, and to contend with, if not out-do her Elder Sister *Amsterdam*, whose Example she follows, even to the allowing the *Jews* a Synagogue.

From *Rotterdam*, in two hours, by the Canal, I came to *Delft*, the neatest *Delft.* and most quiet Town in *Holland*; where those of *Rotterdam*, to whom their perpetual Toil gives Gust for Ease and Relaxation, relish all the slumbering Joys found in a quiet, silent, soft Retreat.

I believe few Strangers pass this Town without seeing the Old Church, adorn'd with the Tomb of the famous *Van Tromp*; its fine Market Place, the largest of the Seventeen Provinces, and beautify'd with a Town House of admirable Architecture; and the New Church in which is the Mausoleum of the Princes of *Orange*, the most Magnificent I ever yet saw, or that I believe I ever shall see: But what fill'd me with a trembling Horror, was the sight of the Inscription, and the very Holes in the Wall, caused by the Bullets with which *Beltazar Gerrard* assassinated *William the First*, Prince of *Orange*, the Wise Founder of this State, the Tenth Day of *July*, 1584. in the old Court where the *French* Ambassadors lodg'd during the *Ryswick* Treaty. *Levenhook's* Rarities are of a more pleasant Nature, which I miss'd the Sight of, he being in the Country when I was there; but to make me some amends, I saw with much Pleasure the making their Earthen-Ware, so famous thro' the World; there is also a very good Hospital for the Orphans; and its Arsenal well-built, is the largest and chiefest in all the Seven-Provinces. *Delft* has the Third Voice in the States of *Holland*, and glories in giving Birth to the Grand Pensioner

Heinsius,

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Heinsius, whom I had the Honour of seeing, and the Great *Hugo Grotius*, whose sublime Genius, cultivated with extreamest Art, hath let us see the great Perfection Humanity is capable of.

Thence by the Canal, through a Country affording a most pleasant Summer Landskip, in one Hour, I came to this lovely *Hague*, formerly the *Hague*. Residence of the Counts of *Holland*, whence called *S'Graven Hague*, and now deservedly the Residence of the States of this Province and States General; the Chambers of whose Assembly new built in the New-Court, are all very fine, and of a wonderful Magnificence. In the same Court are held the Council of State, Chamber of Accounts, and Courts of Justice of *Holland* and *Zealand*, which are kept in Common. The *Hague* contains between Four and five thousand Houses; and the two *Doelens*, the *Bedlam*, the *Arminian-Church*, *Anabaptist-Church*, *Lutheran-Church*, *English-Church*, *Cloister-Church*, *French-Church*, Great Church, and a pretty Octangular Church, called the New-Church, ought to be seen by Strangers: But Prince *Maurice's* House, the Two Hospitals for the Orphans, the Spin-House, the Foundry for Canon, the *Voorhout*, the *Pleym*, the *Princen-*

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Grass, drawn in a Line as far as you can see, and adorn'd on each side with large lovely Trees and beautiful Houses; the *Viveberg*, (the sad Stage where the tragical Deaths of the Two *De Witts* taught all Mankind, by an unparallel'd barbarous Example, what 'tis to fall beneath the Fury of an enraged Populace) and above all, the Old Court, with its surprizing Gardens, Fountains and Wilderesses, are Places so full of Beauties and charming Delights, and so bewitching, that they render the *Hague*, if not the most charming Village of the Universe, without all doubt, the most delectable of the Seventeen Provinces.

Utrecht, 'tis true, may be chose by one, that satisfied with an Ancient Family and a small Revenue, places his Happiness in the Conversation of the Muses; and *Delft* is sweet to a Man, who consum'd with Care, and sated with the World, thinks rather how to leave it, than live in it as he ought; but all those Great Spirits, who at once court, contemn, and command their Fortune, make this their Residence; tho' it must be own'd, That a more loose, weak, and to me more nauseous, tho' by some thought a more polite Behaviour and Carriage, seems here to have debauch'd that wise simplicity and severity

severity of Manners that reigns in all the other more prudent and virtuous Towns, which yet is to be looked upon as the effect of a luxurious Court crowded with Strangers, and especially *French*, rather than the natural Guilt, Weakness, or Temper of the People.

While I was here, on a bright and charming Day, I was tempted to see the Country round about; and I should have had the Company of an honest *Dutch* Gentleman, to whom I had a Letter of Recommendation, had not a very odd Accident prevented him, with which it would be impertinent to trouble your Lordship, and which forced me to hire a Chaise and Man on purpose to conduct me; From hence then, on a perpetual Pavement, and under a continual Arbor, we came in about an Hour and half to *Loosduynen*, in whose Church is put up an Inscription, shewing, that in 1276. the Countess *Mathilda*, Wife of *Herman* Count of *Hennenbergh*, had at one Birth Three hundred and sixty five Children, One hundred and eighty two Males, and One hundred and eighty two Females, and the odd one an Hermaphrodite of neither Sex singly, but both Male and Female. I'm glad that in this Country there's liberty of Faith, for to say the Truth (tho' they pretend

to shew the two brazen Basons in which they say the Children were baptized). I believe not this Birth, and I believe all those will be of my Opinion, who know how abounding in Ignorance and Miracles the Thirteenth Century was.

From thence, in half an Hour, we pass'd on to *Honflaerdyke*, the finest House the late King had in these Countries; in its ancient magnificent Buildings, rich Furniture, regular Woods and Menagerie, 'tis superior; but its Gardens and Scituation are inferior to *Loo*.

From hence, in two Hours, we came to *Ryswick*, famous for the late Peace which the *French* King sent to seek there; and the several Chambers in which 'twas transacted, are shewn with great exactness: The House is newer and better built than *Dieren*, and all of Stone; its Garden regular and beautiful.

From thence, in two hours, passing a charming Way and *Sorgvliet*, a House where, if the Productions of Art had been but half so plentiful as those of Nature, it would be one of the most charming Seats of the Universe; we came to *Scheveling* on the Sea-side, half a League from hence, where we saw the Chariot of Prince *Maurice*, call'd Sailing, because it sails on Land as a Ship at Sea; and

and in returning, after having seen the charming Seat of *St. Anneland*, the reverse of *Sorgvliet*, because their Art is much superior to Nature, we turn'd into the enchanting Wood and Mayl, adjoyning to this Town, while the Setting Sun, whose dying Beams faintly peeping thro' the shady Trees, gave but light enough to see all its Beauties, and while the wanton playing Wind gently breath'd its Sweets. In half an Hour we arriv'd at the King's House in the Wood, whose *Sael* or Hall, with its Paintings, is esteem'd the finest of that kind in the World, and was the Object of the Admiration of all the Sovereign Princes, whom the late King there treated during the famous Congress in the Time of the late War.

I am just setting out for *Leyden*, from whence I shall again write to your Lordship, if I can but overcome the fear I have, that I give your Lordship but too disagreeable a Task, and tedious Trouble in reading my unpolish'd Lines, which I beg you would Pardon, and believe that I am,

Your Lordships, &c.

LET-

LETTER IV.

*Leyden.**My Lord,**Leyden.*

MY last to your Lordship was dated at the *Hague*, from whence, in Three Hours on the Canal, I came to this Town, the biggest of the Seven Provinces except *Amsterdam*; and has the Fourth Voice in the Assembly of the States of *Holland*, and famous above all the other Towns of this State, for its Manufactures of Woollen Cloth, Says, Camlets, &c. the Fabrick of which, and the two Halls or Markets where they are sold, though remarkable enough, I must confess my self to have the Interest of Old *England* too much at Heart, to behold with as much Pleasure as I did the *Mall* at the Entrance into the Town, and the Canals all adorn'd with Trees, which being older and larger here than any-where else, makes me believe that pleasant Ornament which creates so much Beauty in the *Dutch* Towns, had its Original here, and from thence derived it self to all the others. What is further thought worth seeing here, are
its

its large Town-house, its Hospital for the Orphans, its Bridewel, Bedlam, and Aelmosiner's House, where vast Quantities of Bread are weekly distributed to the Poor; its Magazine, and the *Berg* or Mount, which, though an Elevation no bigger than a House, is looked on as a great Curiosity in this Country, where a Mountain is as rare as an Elephant; for I have seen just one of each since I left *England* and I gave Two Pence to mount the Hill, and Two Pence to see the Elephant. The most remarkable Churches are *St. Peters*, *Pancrease*, and our Ladies, or the great Walloon Church, in which lies buried, with a small Mausoleum, the Great *Joseph Scaliger*, so famous among the Learned, and who left his Books to the Library of this University, founded in 1575. by *William* the first Prince of *Orange*; of which the States General are the Curators, and which is infinitely inferior to ours in *England* in its Publick Library and Schools, and even in its Anatomy-Chamber and Physick-Garden; and indeed, as much as the *Hague* exceeded the Idea I had before form'd of it, this Place proves as much beneath it, in respect of the Inns, in which I not only found very bad Accomodation at a very extravagant Rate, but was obliged to pay a
Guilder

Guilder for the bare housing of my Port-
 mantle about half an Hour. And what
 will yet appear more strange, is, that I
 was obliged to send for Four Barbers
 successively, e'er I could have one who
 knew how to tie up my W^g. But what
 shews *Leyden*, though a University, to
 be the most unpolish'd Town of this
 State, is their gazing at Strangers in
 such a manner, as the lowest of the Mob
 sometimes uses to do in *England*. This
 City is seated on the Ancient Bed of the
Rhyne, with which River, having of late
 been much acquainted, I had a Curiosi-
 ty to see its Exit; and having hired a
 Chaise on purpose (in which, without
 any Hurt, we were overturn'd, thro' an
 Excess of Complaisance in giving the
 Way to a Cart) we pass'd the two
Catwicks, (two pleasant Villages worth
 a Stranger's Sight) and after having ta-
 ken as much Pains as the Ancients to find
 the Head of the *Nile*, at last we found
 its sneaking Tail lurking in the Sands;
 not far from whence, out at Sea, is *Arx*
Britanica, which, though at high Wa-
 ter it be invisible, yet at low Water
 they say may be plainly seen. Now, al-
 though the Mouth of the *Rhine* be here
 intirely dam'd up, yet the Opening and
 Cleansing of it would be easy if not op-
 posed by the City of *Amsterdam*, and
 would

would contribute to the rendring this City more Wealthy, as well as Healthy, it being now subject to noisome Smells and contagious Distempers, especially in dry Summers, occasioned, as they say, by their having no means of renewing their Canals with Water, but by the *Harlem Meer*. And in returning by two Villages called *Nortwycks*, I had design'd to have made a larger Tour, according to my Agreement, but the Boor that drove me told me I had had riding enough, and drove me into the Town whether I would or no; which Brutality rendred much sweeter the Civility of Mr. D---L---F. who was very obliging, as also another Gentleman who lodged in his House, to whom I had a Letter of Recommendation, unknown each to other; but we soon became well acquainted, and in a Glass of good Champagne Wine drank to the Health of our Friends in *England*. I thought to have gone further the next Day, but they were so importunate with me that I spent Three Days in their Company, and found, that the longer I was in it, the loather I was to leave it; and therefore 'twas with Regret I was forced from *Leyden*, but not before I had, by this Letter, presented
to

Travels through Holland, &c.

to your Lordship's View what I found there most remarkable, being never so happy, as when, by my Services, I am studiously endeavouring to let all the World know how much

I am,

Your Lordship's, &c.

LET.

LETTER V.

Amsterdam.

My Lord,

FROM *Leyden*, where I wrote last to your Lordship, in Six Hours on the Canal, I came to *Harlem*, a pretty large clean Town on the River *Sparren*, and famous for the Manufactures of Linnen, the finest and whitest of all *Holland*. 'Tis adorned with the best built and greatest Church of the Province, and a handsom Town-house, where they shew the Swords that beheaded Five Hundred Soldiers, who were in a Conspiracy to betray the Town to the Duke d'Alva; and hard by, the House where lived *Lawrence Coster*, the Inventor of Printing: But its neighbouring Wood is what renders this Town the most agreeable.

From *Harlem* I set out by water to make the Tour of *North Holland*, which, after 5 Hours, (having on the Way had a full View of the *Harlem Meer*, and passed *Amsterdam*) I began, by coming to *Surendam*, where most of the Ships belonging to *Amsterdam* are built. This Town, tho' small,
is

is extremely Populous, and the Women, who wear a particular Dress above the Waste like a Man, have generally the best Faces I ever saw. Here was shewn me a Ship-wright's poor homely Cottage, in which, for several Weeks, resided the Great Czar of *Muscovy*, while he pry'd into the Method of building Ships, and studied Navigation.

Alkmaer. From *Surendam*, in Seven Hours by the Canal, I came to *Alkmaer*, the Capital of *North Holland*, a pretty Town, where is a neat Fish-Market, and a handsome great Church, beautified with the largest Organs in all *Holland*: But the adjacent Wood, with its regular Alleys, has such various, and so many gloomy, shady melancholy Beauties, as require the Embellishments of a Pen superior far to mine, to draw the lively Picture of the pleasing shady Scene.

Medenblick. From *Alkmaer*, by Land, in Five Hours, I came to *Medenblick*, whose Town-house, Mint and Magazine, tho' in decay, are what are thought the most remarkable in this Town. From whence our Way lay on the Edge of the Sea, and all on the Top of its mighty Dykes, which, though generally double, and sometimes treble, are a Sight so prodigious, and amazing, as exceeds Imagination; and necessary

ry it is they should be so, since on them alone depends the Safety of almost a Million of People. Under these Dykes, most part of the Way, are built Hundreds of Cottages, inhabited by poor Boors, who, in case of the least Breach by that Outragious Element, would be swallow'd up at once, and in one Moment. After having travel'd thus Four Hours in a Wind so furious, that we were forced, in order to prevent our being blown into the very Mouth of the Waves, to take off the Top of the Post-Waggon.

I came to *Enckuysen*, scituated on the *Enckuysen*. Sea, whose Rage is there curbed by great Dykes, and a Wall, which, on that Side, environs this Town: Which boasts of a Mint, a Magazine, a pretty new-built Town-house, a fine *East-India* House, and an Hospital for Old Seamen; and is one of the most renown'd in the World for its mighty Fishing Trade.

From *Enckuysen*, in Three Hours by Land, all on a Pavement shaded with pleasant Trees like an Alley in a Garden, I came to *Hoorn*, which, tho' it has the *Horn*. best Haven on all the *Zuyder Zee*, and be esteem'd the Second Town of *North Holland*, and tho' it be larger, yet is it not so pretty a Town as *Enckuysen*, nor is its Town-house so Noble a Structure,

nor its *East-India* House, tho' newer, so Magnificent : Its Magazine and Mint are what are further most considerable. The Three Towns of *Medenblick*, *Enc-kuyzen* and *Hoorn*, have the Privilege of coining Money for Seven Years, each by Turns.

Edam.

From *Horn*, in Three Hours on the Canal, I came to *Edam*, the meanest Town of a Trading Town in these Provinces, and considerable for little but its Red Cheese, which is sold in great Quantities.

Monnikendam.

From *Edam*, one Hour on the Canal brought me to *Monnikendam*, a small indifferent clean Town, affording nothing remarkable but the Town-house Clock, which, when it strikes, gives Movement to a Huntsman on Horseback, who blows his Horn, and is follow'd by his Dogs, &c. round the Steeple, a Device merry enough.

Purmerend.

From *Monnikendam*, by Land, having spent some Hours in trolling in the *Beemster*, (which, of a great Lake that it was not many Years ago, being now drain'd, is made one of the pleasantest Spots of Ground to be seen in the Universe, being all divided by long straight Canals and Causeys, planted on each Side with lovely Trees) I came to *Purmerend*, the Eighteenth and last Town

Town that has Voice in the States of *Holland*, of no great Consideration, and a little desolate and in decay, thro' its Vicinity to *Amsterdam*, as indeed most of the Towns are in *North Holland*; which yet exceeds *South Holland* in the Numbers and Largeness of its Cattle, in the Excellence of its Pasture, in its greater Number of Villages, in its prodigious Dykes, and in a more becoming Head-dress for the Women.

Having thus run over all *North Holland*, from *Purmerend*, in Three Hours by Water, I came to this Famous City of *Amsterdam*, in the Time of its *Kermis* or Fair, when it was dress'd out in all its utmost Glory: And here I hope your Lordship will not expect from me a perfect Description of all that surprises in a City, one of the most Illustrious of the World, since two large Folio's are already printed on that Subject, and which yet leave their Reader with faint imperfect Images of its Grandeur. If you walk by the Water-side on the New Bridge, over the *Damrack*, you are on one Side alarm'd with the Sight of the crowded Key, the Port, and all the Shipping, which bring to *Amsterdam*, in numberless Fleets, all the Rich Treasures of both the *Indies*, (a Sight that fills a Lover of *England* at once with

Amsterdam.

Wonder and Envy). On the other Side are you charm'd with a View of all that's Great and Glorious in the Town ; of which, what deserve a more particular Regard and Mention above the rest, are their Admiralty, kept in a Palace, formerly the Prince's, a Noble Stately Building : Near which is the *Leenbanck*, or Lombard, a large handfom House, and of great Convenience in Trade; their Exchange, though longer, is yet inferior to that of *London*, both in Breadth and in Magnificence ; but the Stadt-house, which is 282 Foot wide, 232 Foot deep, 116 Foot high, begun in 1648. had it a Grander Entrance, must be own'd by all to be a Building Glorious and Haughty, and worthy the Age of *Augustus* and Ancient *Rome*. Under it is the Famous Bank (the Common Treasure of so many Nations); near it is the New Church, beautified with the Richest Marble ; admirable Organs, and a Pulpit the finest carved one in the World. The New Lutheran Octangular Church merits a Stranger's Sight ; as does the House where Ambassadors are lodged. The Publick Latin School, (tho' new-built) is no very extraordinary Thing, filling the Purse with Money being more minded here, than filling the Brain with Scholastick Learning ;

ing ; but the *Portuguese* Jews Synagogue, (for the *German* is not so Magnificent) is the most sumptuous one in the World, whether you consider its outward Ornament, or its inward Riches ; and hard by is a Physick-Garden, in some Respects excelling that at *Leyden*, and excelled by none ; not far from whence is a House where are shewn various sorts of prodigious Birds : But, as Glorious Monuments of the excessive Wealth acquired in Trade, are to be seen Mr. *Tripp's*, and *Pinto*, the Rich Jew's Houses ; in this last is a Room pav'd with Duccatoons or Crown-pieces, and these enlaid edge-wise : But indeed, the whole New *Heer Graff* is fronted with Houses like the Palaces of Princes, where glittering Guildings, exquisite Paintings, rich China, Screens, Gold, Pearls, Diamonds, enchant you, and rival the Apartments of Monarchs in Haughty Magnificence. But amidst all this Splendor, there is nothing meaner than the Coaches at *Amsterdam* ; indeed no one but the Stadtholder, in all the Seven Provinces, is allowed to have above Four Horses ; but in this City, no Coach, (without paying, as some few doe) a Fine for shaking the too unstable Foundations of their Houses, is suffered to be drawn on Wheels by Two Horses, but

by One Horfe on a Sledge. Once I went in a Hackney one for Curioſity, but could never have Patience to endure it twice, no more than their Play, which I once ſaw, though on a very fine Theatre, yet ſo miſerably acted, as convinced me the *Dutch* abound much more in Wiſdom than Wit and Fancy, and are little verſ'd in thoſe more refin'd Paſſions, that are the Amuſements, if not the Buſineſs, of ſo many in their neighbouring Nations; and I think their Dog and Cat Market, ſeriously kept every Week a more Comical Scene, than any in their Comedy. But *Amſterdam*, and indeed this whole State, deſervedly glories in nothing more than in the Publick Care that's taken of Mankind, by providing Hospitals for all ſorts of People, which at once make the lazy able Beggars work, and comfort and cheriſh the Weak, ſo that there is no fainting, complaining or rotting in their Streets. In this City are no leſs than Four for the Orphans; in one of them alone, I ſaw 1346 Fatherleſs and Motherleſs Boys and Girls, ſinging Pſalms and working, all taken Care of by the Publick in wonderful Order; which made ſuch an Impreſſion on me, that I could not but turn about to ſome Gentlemen that brought me thither, and tell 'em that
theſe

these were the Seeds of their mighty Industry and laboured Manufactures; the Sinews of their State, and the most formidable of all their Forces. There is another for Popish Girls, but that's a sort of a Nunnery. Their *Bedlam* is much inferior to ours; but in the Spin-house, or Women's *Bridewel*, in a Gallery, I saw 117 Women, in whom Nature had overcome Education, cloathed in all the Gay Habiliaments of Love, adorn'd with Plumes of Feathers on their Heads, patched and painted, and just as they used to charm and coax the fond, admiring and deluded Culls, who know not the fatal Arts of Women. Thus were they exposed to the View and Gibes of the scoffing and deriding Croud, who spared them not, and yet they bore all with an Impudence in none to be found, but in those whose furious Lusts are the more effronted, boundless and superlative, as their Education has been more severe. About Seventy Men were enclosed in the Rasp-house, or Men's *Bridewel*, where a most severe Labour (every two of them rasping Fifty Pound of Wood a Day) for many groaning tedious Years, makes them prefer Death to Life, and sweat out and atone for their past mischievous Idleness. The Hospitals for

the Sick, and the Leprosy-house, are kept in the nicest inimitable Cleanliness, and that for the Old Men deserves well to be seen, tho' the Old Womens much exceeds it, and is the best, as it is one of the newest of this Town. Here I found one Woman One Hundred and Four Years Old a spinning, brisk and healthy, who, when I offer'd her a Guilder Piece, told me I knew how to spend it better than she did, for her part, she knew not what to do with it. There is another House where vast Quantities of Provisions are weekly distributed to those that are really working Poor; and several Turf-houses, where Fuel is likewise given 'em: But the lazy wandring Beggars are no sooner spy'd in the Streets, but are hurried away to the *Twiligt-tucht* house, where they are made to earn their Living with a witness; which I could wish might be imitated at *London*, since it prevents all begging in the Streets, with many other Mischiefs. The *West-India* House here is not very considerable, but the *East-India* House, with its Prodigious, Sumptuous, Magnificent Warehouses 2000 Foot long, Magazine, Dock, and Rope-yard 1800 Foot long, I prefer to any Sight I ever saw in my Life; and their Description to those that have not seen them, would certainly pass for incredible

credible Romance, so transcending are the Powers of Trade, that nothing but Occular Demonstration can create an Adequate Notion of its amasing and wondrous Effects. Not far off is *Amsterdam's* Magazine, one of the finest that can be seen; just by which lies afloat, but staked and boomed round, and constantly guarded, *Amsterdam's* Quota to the Fleet, where I view'd and counted Forty two Men of War, all clean, that might be equipped at a few Days warning, the rest of their Ships being out on Convoy. And for its Security by Land, this City is encompass'd with prodigious Walls, Bastions and Ditches, fortified with all possible Art and Care, and by means of its Sluces drowning the circumjacent Country, it may defy the Universe. 'Tis built in the Form of Half a Full Moon, and environed with a pleasant Walk of Trees; and though it stands but upon One Fifth, or at most One Fourth of the Ground of *London*, and contains about 300000 People, yet its Revenue, by the best Judge's Computation, amounts to Four or Five Thousand Pound Sterling a Day, and almost to Seventeen Hundred Thousand Pound Sterling a Year. Its Weights alone are farm'd at Five Hundred Pounds a Day; and as a further Evidence of its Riches, I was told

told the Deacons have the Administration of Three Ton of Gold a Year for Charitable Uses alone. Its Sovereign Power is lodged in the Senate of Thirty Six, out of whom are chosen the Four Burgomasters, on whom is placed the Honour of the City, and who have the Executive Power. The Nine Eschevins compose the Court of Justice, and their Ministers of the Court are the Scout or Sheriff; and the Pensioners or Recorders (for there are Two) of the Town, which, though it has but the Fifth Voice, there, yet sends Four Deputies to the Assembly of the States of *Holland*. Here have I seen an *Italian* Youth that had a live Child growing out of his Side; and my spare Time I spend in rummaging Mr. *Wetsteines* and Mr. *Westbergues*, Booksellers Shops, as I have already done those of Mr. *Vandewater's* at *Utrecht*, and Mr. *Leers's* at *Rotterdam*, and Mr. *Lutchman's* at *Leyden*, in order to compleat a Sett of Civil Law Books; the Conſigement of which I shall commit to the Care of my Footman, who, dull even to Stupidity, is one of the honestest Fellows I have ever yet found.

Thus

Thus having finish'd the entire Tour of *Holland* by seeing *Muyden*, a pretty strong Town, two Hours from hence, and *Narden* an Hour farther, regularly and strongly fortify'd, and the Out-work to *Amsterdam*; I shall conclude my Account of the *United Provinces*, by telling your Lordship, that no Country is pleasanter for Travelling, since it being naturally Boggy, and almost unpassable; Necessity has made the best and pleasantest Pavements in the World on Land, and as charming Canals for Travellers by Water, nor is there any where neater Gardens, tho' they want our beautiful and useful Gravel Walks and Grass-Platts; extream Cleanliness in their Houses, their Linnen, their Dyet, and all other Things, runs thro' all Ranks of their People, who, even the most ordinary Sort, are very civil, affable, and obliging to Strangers, and above all others, kind and loving to the *English*, whom they look on as a sort of Countrymen, at least during this War: Nor are their Inns so exacting as I expected. And I think the *Dutch* much wrong'd in the common Notion we have of their Brutality and Dishonesty, since the Men are of general Probity, as the Women are of Chastity; for I have never observed so much publick

publick Modesty, with greater Desire, conducted with so great Wisdom, as among their Women, who have the Penetration of Angels; and so much the more, by how much they appear to have the less: For tho' they esteem not, nor practise those Airs, or piquant Turns of Wit, which accomplish the Coquet; yet are they endu'd with Piety, without Hypocrisie; with a wondrous Stock of Sence, without Affectation of Wit; with much Good-nature, and yet *an extraordinary Chastity, to be overcome by nothing, but the most vigorous, violent, impetuous, and irresistible Sallies of Nature*: And tho', by a wise Apathy, they seem to be incapable of the keen Emportments of violent Passions; yet, whatsoever a Learned Gentleman hath asserted to the contrary, I cannot agree, that they neither love, nor desire to be beloved; since, notwithstanding their severe Rules, I have never observed Love's Empire so all-powerful as in their Hearts, when they are thoroughly allured by a Passion sincere, not founded on Vanity or Interest, and that they find the Heart really and truly engag'd; a very necessary Consequence of the Chastity of their Education. Reserv'd are they, and of great Secrecy, and esteem as Crimes many little Liberties

Liberties which other Women allow of; which Restraint endears their Husbands to them after Marriage. They are not easily gain'd; but when once gained, secured for ever. They are generally bred to Accompts, Affairs, and Business, and labour as much as their Husbands in acquiring, and generally are more frugal in spending Money. Thus having less Luxury, they have less Occasion for Money: While their Expences are less, they are not so carping, nor craving, nor contriving for Money, as in their neighbouring Kingdoms; nor do they make such Interested Marriages, or aim so much at Money in them. What Fortune a Man receives with them is clear Gains, while they are sure to live on the Income; while in other Countries a Woman often in a few Years spends all her Fortune, let her bring never so much. They are totally ignorant of those Methods of Expence, which is the whole Business of some other Women, but admirably vers'd in all the Arts of Menage. There is no where to be seen such beautiful Faces, yet are they entirely free from Vanity, nor in the least Conceited of any Personal Perfections, which may make it as difficult to impose upon them in Matters of Love, as 'tis easie on others; they

they are Plain in Habit, and neither Patch nor Paint, nor understand the Arts of Dress, nor are they fond of appearing, or know they these little cunning Arts, so common to the rest of the Sex, but aim at the Heart, having a Mind severe, elivated, and religious, too sincerely Good to stand in need of, and too Great to use delusive Tricks or deceitful Artifices, or to stoop or to submit to the Mean Arts of base Dissimulation, and know no other way to recommend themselves to inspire and kindle a Passion or Charm their Lovers, but by the adorable Qualities of Piety, Good-nature, Innocence, Truth and Integrity, and effect more by an honest Sincerity, than others by the most cunning Endeavours.

In short, they take better Care of the Encrease and Happiness of Mankind, and really are what too many other Women can with all their Arts, but endeavour to appear to be, which is the cause of so few Divorces in *Holland*; nor are the Men much inferior to them, being a Thinking, Grave People, more Wise than Witty, and of greater Judgment and less Passion than others, hiding a prodigious fund of Sence, under an appearing Want of it, of great general Sincerity and Probity (the Dictate of Wisdom and Necessity of Mutual Deal-
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ing, without any sharpening Tricks, punctually Just where they cannot get Advantage; (yet sometimes, when prompted by Necessity or Avarice, sharp enough) indefatigable in Toil, and of vast Industry, and such entire Strangers to Idleness, they scarce allow themselves any Diversion, omitting no Device, but inventing a Thousand little Arts and Trades, unknown to others, to get Money, which generally enriches 'em, and yet are they so frugal, that 'tis seldom or never known, and look'd on as monstrous among 'em, to make the Years Expence equal to its Income; hence are they enabled to bear their heavy and grievous Taxes, which force them likewise on their great Sobriety, encreased by their Dyet, consisting much of Herbs and Fish, and little Flesh; from whence perhaps it likewise happens, that their Marriners are more renown'd for their Experience than their Bravery; but those born to Estates, living on their Rents, and design'd for the Magistracy of their Towns, are bred to Letters, and are of great Learning, especially in the Civil-Law, which is very much that of their Country, Examples of which are *Grotius, Vossius, Lipsius, Heinsius*; tho' their Language will scarce allow 'em to be Orators,

Orators, and much less Poets; for tho' it has so much of ours, that without all doubt they are originally the same, yet it keeps it self Plain and Sincere without Embelishment, Figure, or Ornament; nor are their Universities, *Utrecht* and *Leyden* very considerable; neither they nor Learning, in a Country where Profit is much more in Request than Honour, not being so much encouraged as Trade, which seems here to be arriv'd to a Pitch unknown to all the World beside: For tho' they have no Timber of their own, yet they have more Ships than all the rest of *Europe*: And tho' they have few or no Native Commodities, yet they have the greatest Magazines of all sorts of Goods for all sorts of Foreign Markets, for there is little consumed at Home, and no great Domestick Inland Retail Trade: Which is the reason some who pry not into the bottom of Things, seeing not so many, nor such Great Retail-Shops as elsewhere, do thence conclude, That there is little Trade among them; not considering that the *Dutch* do use all Means to discourage unnecessary Expence, especially of Foreign Commodities; as well knowing that that Nation, whose Imports exceeds their Exports, are in the high road to Poverty, and
that

that Costly Living would disable 'em to pay their severe Taxes, and eat up and devour them; and that of all the Arts their Enemies use to destroy them, none can have so sure, and such infallible fatal Success, as the Introduction of Luxury and Debauchery; but their Commerce is chiefly to fetch from one Place to carry to another, and depends much on their Mighty Fishing-Trade; by which, 'tis thought, they gain as much as by that to the *East-Indies*, tho' even that is more beneficial to them, than to us, because few of those Commodities are consum'd at Home there, but are Exported by the Company, arriv'd to that height of Power, that it's able to bring to Sea, above Forty Men of War, and Thirty thousand Men by Land: Nor does the reason of this great Trade and Commerce among the *Dutch* seem difficult to find out, if we consider:

1st. Their Scituation between two such great Rivers, as the *Rhine* and the *Maese*, branch'd out into so many Navigable Streams and Canals, leading not only to every great Town, and every Village, but almost to every Private House, and all cover'd with an infinite Number of Sails, coursing every where up and down upon them; besides a multitude of Boats drawn by Horses, where one

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Horse draws more than Fifty can by Cart and Carriage, making a great part of the Price of Heavy Commodities, while the Passengers have the same Conveniences as in their Houses, when as the Time of Labouring and Industrious Men, is the greatest Native Commodity of any Country; tho' their Havens being froze up sometimes two or three Months in the Year; while ours are open, may seem to give us some Advantage over 'em.

2dly, Into this Country, so Commodious for Trade, are crowded vast Numbers of People; for tho' few are seen in the Streets, yet are there great Numbers better employ'd at work, and Necessity puts them upon Industry and Manufactures, which tho' inspected and order'd with the greatest Care and Probity, by the Publick, yet generally, upon Comparison, seem'd to me, inferior to the *English*.

3dly, A great Care to have all their People employ'd, by erection of Publick Work-Houses for all Idle People.

4thly, The Transferrance of Bills of Debt; which makes the permutation of Property more easie than elsewhere.

5thly, The Lowness of their Customs are a great ease to Trade.

6thly,

6thly, Their Lean Banks, or Lombards, are likewise a vast Advantage to it; where at all times, for a small Matter, you may turn all your Stock into Ready Money.

7thly, The Women generally Labour as much as the Men; by which double the Hands are employ'd.

Lastly, There are few of the Members of the States who have the Government in their Hands, but what are concern'd themselves in Trade, and who allow a General Toleration to all Religions: Which is the cause, that tho' I found vast Numbers of Papists among them, and many more than I expected; who, tho' generally the most Bigotted of any, yet here they seem to forget their Principles, and all Animosities on that Account are perfectly quieted; there being no Disputes about Religion, which is here the most in Practice, and least in Appearance in the World; People here rather exercising a strict Morality, than making any great Profession, nor have the Clergy here any great Power, since they are paid by the State, altho' since 1583. the Reformed Religion is the only publick avowed Religion, which was left to the Direction of each separate Province by the Union of *Utrecht*, the Foundation of this State,

in 1579. the chief Articles of which Union are :

First, *That all Priviledges shall be preserved to every Province and City.*

Secondly, *To Assist one another with Life and Fortune.*

Thirdly, *All old Fortify'd Towns shall be Fortify'd at the Charge of the Province in which they are; but all New at the Common Charge.*

Fourthly, *Peace and War shall not be made but by Common Consent.*

So that this State is not so properly a Common-wealth, as a Confederacy of Seven Sovereign Provinces, viz. *Guelderland*, to which is joyn'd *Zutphen*, *Holland*, *Zealand*, *Utrecht*, *Friezland*, *Overissel*, and *Groninguen*, with the *Ommelands*, each compos'd of several Free Cities; of which there are Eighteen that have Voice in the Assembly of the States of the Province of *Holland*, besides the Colledge of Nobles who have the first, viz. *Dort*, *Harlem*, *Delft*, *Leyden*, *Amsterdam*, *Goude*, *Rotterdam*, *Gorcum*, *Scheidam*, *Schoonoven*, *Briel*, *Alcmaer*, *Hoorn*, *Enckuysen*, *Edam*, *Monnikedam*, *Medenblick*, and *Purmerend*;

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in the Assembly of these States all must agree, but ought not without the consent of their several Towns, which sometimes causes Delay. The Provinces of *Holland* and *Zealand*, as formerly they had one Governour, so now have they one Common Judicature. All the said Seven Provinces send their Deputies to the *Hague* for the composing three Colledges, *viz.* the States General, the Council of State, and the Chamber of Accounts. In the Assembly of the States General, they Vote by Provinces and not by Persons, and in Voting, plurality prevails, unless in Cases of Peace and War, of Foreign Alliances, of raising or coining Monies, or the Privilege of each Province, or Member of the Union: And however the States General may seem to be Sovereigns, yet are they not absolutely so, since they are not Impowered to Act without Consulting with their several Provinces and Cities. The Council of State gives its Advice to, and executes the Resolutions of the States General, something like our Privy-Council. The Chamber of Accounts is to Examine State, and Controul the Accounts, and is properly the Treasury; besides, there is the Council of the Admiralty, which solely regards the Marine, and is subdivided

into Five Chambers, *viz.* *Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hoorn, Middleburgh, and Harlinguen*, which have the Nomination of the Captains and Superior Officers in all Ships, and every Captain has the Care of Manning and Victualling his own Ship: Their whole Fleet may consist of above a Hundred and Ten Men of War; and their constant standing Forces in Times of Peace of about Forty thousand Men; and the ordinary Yearly Revenue, about 2500000 *l.* Sterling, on which all Tallies, Orders, Bills, are rather above *Par*, and coveted more than Money: Tho' upon the whole we need not live under any great apprehensions of being conquer'd by the *Dutch*, not tho' they should exert all their Force, as they did in the last War, when their Taxes were so severe, that one of the Burgomasters of *Enkuyzen*, a Man of admirable Sence, (tho' a Merchant) told me he truly and really, for some Years, paid above half his Income to the Publick; and to say the Truth, this Government, for all its boasted Liberty, in many Respects is as severe as any on Earth, and in nothing more than Taxes, which sometimes extend to even Travellers on the High-way; nor is it altogether free from Faction and Dissention, caus'd by the *Stadtholders*,
and

and *Arminian* Party, which is the blind-side and weakness of this State, and may one Day, *when its Period shall come*, if improv'd by its Enemies, happen to be its Ruin: But this Consideration would lead me too far, since I have troubled your Lordship too much already, and so shall conclude with assuring your Lordship that I am,

Your Lordships, &c.

E 4 L E T -

LETTER VI.

*Brussels.**My Lord,*

HAVING finish'd the entire Tour of *Holland*, I came in 22 Hours by the Canal from *Amsterdam* to *Rotterdam*; from whence I fet out on the *Maese* about Four in the Afternoon, intending to be at *Dort* by Eight that Night, but both the Wind and Tide coming contrary, I was forced (as well as a great many others, and among the rest a *Brandenburg* Gentleman, with whom I entred into a Confidence and Friendship) to pass most Part of the Night, sitting in the Boat till about Three a Clock in the Morning, when in the Dark, with much ado, we came up to a miserable blind Ale-house on the River Side, which yet was very welcome, because it gave me an Opportunity of stretching my almost crippled Legs, which I had not done in Eleven Hours before; and having refresh'd ourselves for about an Hour, we re-imbar-
ked, and about Six next Morning got to *Dort*, where the *Brandenburgher* and I hired a Chaise, which brought us in
three

three Hours to the Brink of a vast Water called *Holland's Deep*, caused by a mighty Innundation in 1421. which laid a whole Country under Water, drown'd 72 Villages, and 100000 People. We cross'd over this Water (tho' esteem'd very dangerous) in a little Boat very happily to *Swallume*, a little Village, where we again hired a Chaise, which brought us in five Hours to *Breda*, the *Breda*. Capital of the Barony of that Name, belonging in Propriety to the late King *William*, and whose Jurisdiction extends over Seventeen Villages. This Town is seated at the Influx of the *Aade* and *Merk*, is of a Triangular Form, contains about 1500 Houses, and is adorned with a handsom Church, in which is a Stately Tomb of *Frederick* of *Nassau*, the first Baron of *Breda* of the *Nassauvian* Family, and his Wife. Its Steeple, formerly 372 Foot high, had been burnt by Lightening a little before my Arrival, and is now almost rebuilt. But the greatest Ornament of this Town is the Palace or Castle, fortified with Double Ditches, a beautiful regular Building; in the several Rooms whereof are all the late King's Ancestors, very well done in Tapestry; and against it a very pretty Garden. But the Fortifications of this Town, though so Celebrated,

brated, and consisting of fifteen Bastions, environ'd with Double Ditches and Double Outworks, are yet, in my weak Judgment, inferior both to *Grave* and *Boisseduc*.

*Berguen-
op-Zoom.*

From *Breda*, in eight Hours by Land, I came to *Berguen-op-Zoom*, a Town thought impregnable. 'Tis encompassed with so many Redoubts, Sconces, Forts, &c. I could not have Time enough to view or count them all as I ought, but they told me they were no fewer than Eighteen, and great Care has been taken to augment its Fortifications very lately, so that it well deserves to be esteem'd one of the strongest Places in *Europe*.

Antwerp.

From *Berguen-op Zoom*, in seven Hours by Land, through a Country perfectly resembling *England*, I came to *Antwerp*, seated on the *Schelde*, a fine River, tho' not so broad as I expected. *Antwerp* is fortified with prodigious Walls, planted with Walks of lovely Trees, and so broad, they serve for the *Hyde Park* of the Town; and a Cittadel a Noble Pentagon, in which is a Church, with a fine Tomb lately erected. This City contains about 10000 Houses, and is one of the fairest and best built of the World. Its Houses are Palaces, its Exchange a Noble Square Structure, its Mint

Mint deserves to be seen, its Haughty Glorious Town-house, its Magnificent *East-India* House mourn its past Trade, and shews *Antwerp's* former Pride now humbled, and its former Trade decayed, and lost; as sad Witnesses whereof, may be seen its languishing Water-house, and the Galleries, so famous heretofore for inimitable Paintings and curious Cabinets, though they yet retain the charming Remains of their past Beauty, yet are they inferior far to their past Splendor. In *Plantin's* Printing-house I found all the Presses fill'd with Missals and Books of Religion, which is too little here in Practice, as it is too great in Profession and Show; Images and Crucifix's adorn every Street, and nothing can be seen more Rich, Glorious and Surprising than their Churches; I entred that of the Virgin *Mary*, the great Cathedral of the Town, and one of the most beautiful in the World, about Ten in the Morning, while they were celebrating the Obsequies of one of the Lords of the Town, then lately deceased; and though the Freshness of the Morning, and my Walk through the Town, had given me a brisk gay Air, yet I no sooner bolted into the Church, but having my Eyes where-ever they wandred, surpris'd and dazeled with
glorious

glorious Pictures, admirable Statues that seem'd to speak, glittering Lamps, shining Altars, bright Crucifix's, dazzling Tabernacles, beautiful Women, Multitudes of burning Tapers, and Priests cloathed in the richest Vestments; my Smell pleas'd with Frankincense, and all the choicest Perfumes; my Ears charm'd with the softest mournfullest Musick, on the best Instruments and tenderest Voices upon Earth. Having thus every Sense about me ravish'd and surpris'd, I found my self just sinking, my Soul it self almost dissolv'd, had like to have left me fainting without Sense or Thought, quite transported, and in doubt if I were on Earth: In this Extacy I met here by chance a Capuchin Father, with whom I had made an Acquaintance at *Grave*, who, after the Funeral Rites were performed, with much Civility shew'd me all the Beauties of this charming Cathedral, and among the rest the fine Steeple, 420 Foot high, and the three great Doors of the rarest Marble; and yet this Church is inferior to that of the Jesuits in Beauty and Riches, which much surpass'd all I had seen before. I was amaz'd with pleasing Wonder; where-ever you cast your Eyes, the richest Marble is the cheapest thing you see; the Pavement, Pillars,

Pillars, Galleries, are not only all of that Stone, but Porphiry, Jasper, Gold, Azure and Precious Stones, are lavishly employed both in the Body of the Church and Side Chappels, to create a glorious awful Amasement and Reverence in the Beholders: And in a Word, it is agreed by all to be the finest Church for its Bigness in the whole World. The Description of its Western Frontispeice alone would require a Volume, and is looked on as one of the most consummate Pieces of Architecture. Out of the Galleries of this Church they go into a very good Library, employing four Rooms one through another. In the Church of St. *James's*, which possesses also a Thousand Beauties, are to be seen an Altar-piece, whereon is painted *Paul Ruben's*, his Wife and Family, by that inimitable Man's own Hand; an inestimable Piece, to be view'd with the greatest Pleasure, and left with as great Regret. The Dominican's Church is Large, Rich, and Surprising, and yet inferior to a Chappel in the Carmelites Church, where, amidst immense Riches, there is the finest Bass-relief that can be seen. From hence I went to the *Beguyn-hoff*, filled with Five or Six Hundred Women, who, though under the Vow of Chastity, yet have Liberty to go abroad.

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From hence we went to the *Irish* Convent, and thence to the Rich and Noble Abby of *St. Michael*, where, by the Capucin's Means, I was received with great Civility; though we found much Difficulty to see the Carthusian's Church, who look on it a certain Damnation to speak on any Day but *Thursdays*. And indeed I observed much Difference in Respect of Affability, between the Religious Orders, some being more easy and obliging than others, though I generally observed Affability accompanied Poverty, as Pride did Riches; for notwithstanding their Vow of Poverty, they do really make of their Godliness great Gain; and as an Argument of it, after I had been at the *English* Theresian Nunnery, I was carried to a Convent of Dominican Nuns, where they publicly, as in a Shop, offered all sorts of Poppets and Babies to be sold, but not finding any there but at an unreasonable Price, we went to another Nunnery of the Order of *St. Michael*, who with much Civility produced so many Curiosities, we could not but buy some. Their Conversation was entertaining enough, and for all their Vow of Chastity, they discovered a Thousand Ways but too plainly, that Nature suffers under Constraint. And indeed I believe, whoever
has

has been at *Antwerp* will own, that there are no where prettier Women in so great Numbers, nor none who need less Courtship; which I believe may partly proceed from their Religion, where a Pardon is so easy to be had for Faults of that Nature, provided they oblige the Priests, the Masters of their Consciences, who are but too loose themselves in the Duties of Religion, at least in the Convents, (for in that of the Capucins we found a Grave Father throwing a Stick at Walnuts on *Sunday* in Mass Time, and in that of the Minicins several of them sauntering and idling about the Cloister, while their Church was crowded with Numbers of ignorant zealous Devotes.

I had passed my Time too agreeably there, not to leave *Antwerp* with Regret; from whence, through a very pleasant Country, in four Hours by Water, I came to *Mechelen*, on the River *Mechelen*. *Dele*, an ill built Town, containing about Four or Five Thousand Houses. Its great Church, though boasted of, will not appear beautiful to one that remembers *Antwerp's*; but the Garden of the Convent of the Capucins here, is very well worth seeing, as is the Commandary of *Pitzembourg*, belonging to the Knights of the Tutoonick Order: And
above

above all, the great and little Beguinage, inhabited by about One Thousand Women, who spend most of their Time in making the fine *Mechelen* Lace. This Town had formerly the Court of Appeals both in Ecclesiastical and Civil Causes in all the Seventeen Provinces, as now it has in the Ten.

Louvain.

From *Mechelen*, through a most delectable Country, in six Hours by Land, I came to *Louvain*, pleasantly scituated on the River *Dele* among Hills, (the First I had seen since I left *England*). Its chiefeft Church is dedicated to St. *Peter*, but I had not forgot *Antwerp* enough to admire it much. Its Town-house, though Ancient, is a very curious Building. The *Jesuits* Church is one of the best in the Town: In that of the *Recollets* is the Tomb of *Justus Lipsius*. Here is a Convent of *English* Dominicans erected since the Peace, who were civil to me; one *English* Nunnery, and two of *Irish* Capucins. This Town is said to be four Leagues round, but in it is inclosed much waste Ground, large Gardens, Orchards, Corn Fields, and is very ill built; but its University is far the best and largest of any I have seen out of *England*. There are about Four Thousand Students inhabiting no less than between Forty and Fifty Colleges, some

some of them very well built ; the Chief of which are those of the Castle, the Falcon, the Porc, the Lis, and the great Colledge, where I was received with great Civility: The Publick Schools are tollerable. You are scarce out of one of the Gates of *Louvain*, but you enter into a lovely streight Walk of Trees about a Mile and Half long ; at the End of which stands an Old Castle belonging to the Dukes *d'Arfchot*, *d'Arenberg* ; and very near it a Convent of Celestins, in whose Church are all the fine Tombs of that Noble Family. The Garden of this Convent is difficult to enter, as indeed it ought to be ; for of all the Gardens I have yet seen, this is the most delicious, and without any Hyperbole, I think it litterally comes up to the most pleasing Scene described in any Romance. Pleasant little Rivers, Islands, Summer-houses, close Walks, covered Arbours, Bowers, Pleasure-boats, delicious Fishing, Prospects, are all there in the utmost Perfection, that the most charming natural Scituation, perfected with the most exquisite Art, can produce.

From *Louvain*, in Five Hours by Land, through a Country perfectly like *England*, I came to this Town in the *Brussels* Time of the *Kermis* or Fair. 'Tis feat-

ed on the River *Syne*, and is the Capital of *Brabant*, and the Residence of the Elector of *Bavaria*, as it was formerly of the Dukes of *Burgundy*, and of the Governours of these Provinces. A Town inferior to *Antwerp* both in Beauty and in Bigness, and not extreamly well built, unless those Houses destroyed by the *French* Bombardment during the last War, the sad Effects of which are still to be seen, in the Ruines of Four or Five Hundred Houses remaining yet unbuilt; but those that are, especially about the fine large Market Place, are very beautiful, as is the Town-house, with its lofty noble Steeple, and the House called the *Broodt*-house. The Cathedral, tho' large, is not extraordinary, if compared to some others, and remarkable for nothing so much as the rich Altar, whereon are the three Consecrated Wafers, which the Priests make believe bled when they were stab'd by the Jews, but they would not allow me to see them. The *Beguinaage* here is well built and large, inhabited by Five or Six Hundred Beguines; and the Jesuit's Church is very Magnificent. The Archbishop's House makes no great Show; but there is a little enclosed Garden at the Capucins, which is one of the prettiest that can be seen. It is composed of all sorts of ever Greens,
inhabited

inhabited by Thousands of different sorts of Birds. Here is a Convent of Dominicans, and one *English* Nunnery of Clares, and one of Dominicans, who entertain'd me with much Civility. There are several publick Fountains in the Streets, and a pleasant Canal that maintains Trade and Correspondence between this City and *Antwerp*. The Theatre, on which I saw represented a *French* Tragedy, at which was present the Electress of *Bavaria*, is mean, as was the Representation; but the New Opera-Theatre, now building, will be very Magnificent when finish'd. Here is likewise the Chamber where is held the Council of *Brabant*, and the Chamber where are held the Assembly of the States, and the Chamber of Accounts of *Brabant* and *Luxembourg* united, as well as several Palaces of the Nobility of these Countries, whose nearer Approach to, and constant Attendance on the Court, are more especially required. But there is no Hotel more illustrious than that of *Nassau*, belonging to the late King *William*, except the Palace, where is kept the Court of the Elector of *Bavaria*, in which the Chappel and Apartments are not very Magnificent. In the Hall there, the Emperor *Charles V.* made his Famous Resignation to his Son

68 *Travels through Flanders, &c.*

Philip II. the Chair of Guilt Leather in which he sat is in the Jesuits Church. But the Gallery of Paintings, Bed-chamber, and Closet of the Elector, are extream dazling, and the richest I ever yet saw ; over which is that of the Electorefs, equal in Riches and Magnificence. Behind this Palace is a pretty Garden, Vineyard and Park, in which are Labyrinths, Grotto's, and curious Water-works, not kept in fo good Repair as they ought : And almost against the Palace Gate are the Royal Stables, over which is kept the Armory, where are shewn some Curiosities and Antiquities of the *Burgundian* Family. While I was here, the Viscount *Ulirliugen*, to whom I had Letters of Recommendation, did me the honour to carry me with him to Court, where I saw the Elector of *Bavaria* : He is less than middle Siz'd, thin Fac'd, high Nos'd ; has a grave piercing Look, and is not so generally beloved as at first in these Provinces. In the Government of which he is assisted in Spirituals by the Archbishop of *Mechelen*, Primate of the Ten Provinces ; in Temporals by the Council of State and War, by the Privy Council, by the Council of the Finances, Council of the Court of *Brabant*, Chamber of Accounts of *Brabant* and *Luxembourg*, and by the Chamber

Chamber Feodal. When we came to Court, he was giving Audience to several Persons, with whom five several Anti-chambers were crowded ; and 'twas easy to perceive the Elector a Man of a deep Sense, and a marvellous Genius, fit and worthy his illustrious Birth. I was within a Yard of him, and nearly observ'd every Word and Look. Hereceived all Papers with his Eyes fix'd on the Countenance of the Presenters, and what he granted was with a Goodness not to be express'd : He absolutely denied none, but some he deferr'd with such a seeming Reluctance, as contented even those that suffered. In short, no Prince ever seem'd better vers'd in the Arts of Government. The Electress, they say, is a Lady of much Sweetness in her Nature ; if so, she will reign in more Hearts than if she possessed the utmost Bodily Perfections. After which we went to kiss the Hands of the young Princes and the Princess. The Electoral Prince is about Eight Years old, of no extraordinary Appearance, and seems to be of a sickly Constitution ; but no Child can be more beautiful, or of a greater Vivacity mix'd with more Good Nature, than the Second Prince of about Seven Years old, or the Princess, then about Six Years old ; the younger Prince

was about Four Months old, and sucking at the Breast, and seems to be lusty and vigorous. Their Governels, the Baroness *de Simeoni*, whose Son had been Envoy Extraordinary from the Elector of *Bavaria* to the King of *England*, did me the honour to discourse with me almost Half an Hour. After which we went to see the Fort *Monterey*, built by the Count *de Monterey*, a late Governour, who likewise made all the other Fortifications that secure this Town; which will not admit of being regularly fortified by reason of its Scituation, and is unable to make any great Resistance, in case of a vigorous Attack by either *French* or *Dutch*. While I was here, I went to see the Castle, Park, and Gardens of *Anguien*, belonging to the Duke *de Arschot*. The House is new building, and, when finished, will be very Magnificent. But *Anguien's* greatest Beauties, and which are in the Mouths of all Travellers, are its Gardens and Park, in which the Berceau and Star surpasses all of that Nature I have yet seen, and believe any thing of a Subjects in *Europe*. And I returned by *Halle*, whose Church is as famous for many false Miracles, Pictures of which are hung round it, as 'tis for its true immense Treasure, gained by that Pretence, and secured in it.

And

And in my Return hither, they shewed me the Place where the *French* encamped during their late Bombardment, and how much of *Brussels* was bombarded, and which was much more than reported at *London*, and one of the most severe that perhaps ever was; and yet for all that, and what they suffered during the late War, the People here are all *French* in their Hearts, and the *French* King may be Master of this Country at Pleasure, there not being above Five Thousand Men in Pay in the whole Ten Provinces, the People much enclining to him, and every where uneasy and disposed to a Revolt; nor do they love the *English*, but are desirous of a War with *England* whether looking on that Kingdom as the only Obstacle that hinders this Country from coming under the Power of *France*; or as their Rival, as well in Manufactures, which are almost lost, and those few that are left, are much inferior to the *English*; as in Foreign Trade, which is here in a manner entirely forgot, and their Towns languishing for want of Money, which they are greedy of, and ready to catch at any Rate: Or whether it be from the Difference of their Religion, which they are much bigotted to, tho' a discerning Traveller may see it is adapted chiefly for the Gain of the

Priests, (most wicked of all themselves) and to keep the People in awe, and support the Civil Government; tho' it seems to want that true Spirit and Essence of Religion, while degenerated into Form and Show, it softens the Morals of Men, and encourages Debauchery, discernable to an observing Traveller, as soon as he has left the *Dutch* Government, and comes into a Popish Country by a looser freer Air and weakness of Manners, running through all sorts of People you meet, who are Strangers to the wise and strict reserved Morality of the *Dutch*, and which contributes so much to their Power and Riches; but of that I have touch'd in my former, and so shall conclude with assuring your Lordship that I am,

Your Lordship's, &c.

LET-

LETTER VII.

Dunkirk.

My Lord,

FROM *Brussels*, in Five hours by Land, I came to *Aalst*, on the *Aalst*. River *Dender*, famous for nothing more than its Church, which is large and beautiful; and the Tomb of *Theodore Martin*, who first brought Printing into *Germany*, and who lies buried in the Convent of the Order of *St. William* in that Town.

From thence, in Five Hours by Land, I came to *Ghent*, the Capital of *Flanders*, *Ghent*. and the biggest, as 'tis perhaps the best City in all the Ten Provinces; it contains at least Sixteen thousand Houses, and in it is kept the Council and Courts of Justice for the Province of *Flanders*. It is situated at the conflux of the *Schelde*, the *Lys*, the *Leire* and the *Moere*, and is divided by many fine Canals, and fortify'd with a Cittadel, a good Pentagon, and very good Walls and Ditches, and by means of its Sluces, it can lay a large Country under water; it is grac'd with several Squares, among which the

Friday

Friday Market-Place is very large and beautiful; in the middle of which is rais'd on a Pillar, a rich gilt Statue of the Emperor *Charles V.* who was born in a little Chamber which they shew'd me in the Court or Palace, here formerly a noble Building, but now in Decay. On one of the Bridges of this Town are two brazen Statues, representing a Son, who being the Executioner, was oblig'd to Behead his own Father, but in striking the Fatal Blow, the Head of the Ax slip'd off, and left the Helve in his Hand: The Cathedral there, exceeds all I have seen, except that at *Antwerp*; the side Chappels are all of Marble, its Jube is of Alabaster, and very Magnificent; in one of the Chappels is an ancient Picture of *Adam* and *Eve*, which is much esteem'd; but in the uppermost Chappel, behind the high Altar, is the Picture of the *Virgin Mary* sitting in the middle, between an Old Man, by whom is meant God the Father, and a Young one, representing God the Son: and she gives a Hand to each of them, by which is meant her being married to both, and the Holy Ghost descends on her Head in the form of a Dove (a Representation so Incestuous and Blasphemous, its very sight fill'd me with a shivering Horror);
the

the *Beguinage* is the largest and best built of any I have yet seen. In their Church there is a Crucifix, representing our Saviour on the Cross, with his Mouth half open, which is very confidently believ'd to be by Miracle. The Church of the *Dominicans* is very rich and magnificent, 'tis above Sixty Foot broad, and the Roof supported without a Pillar. The Jesuits Convent is very fine. their Church very magnificent, and their Library a very good one: There is likewise a Convent of *English* Jesuits, and a Nunnery of *English* Benedictines, in Number about Eighty; the Lady *Abbeſs*, of which is one of the Daughters of the late Marquis of *Powis*, to her I had a Letter of Recommendation, and discours'd her almost two Hours, and shall always remember her Conversation as one of the most agreeable of my whole Life: Indeed, I must needs say, I should chuse *Ghent* for my Residence above any other Town in the *Spanish* Provinces, except *Antwerp*, as well in respect of the Beauties and Pleasures there found, as because its Inhabitants have more the *English* Manner, and love our Nation better than any other Town, caus'd, I believe, by the *English* Garison, constantly kept there during the War, sometimes so numerous

rous, that it amounted to Eighteen thousand Men. From this agreeable City, in Five Hours, by the Canal, I came out of the *Spanish* Dominions, into those of the *Dutch*, to *Sas van Ghent*, a very little Fortrefs, but prodigiously strong, one of the *Dutch* Fastnesses, a severe Curb to *Ghent*, and hindring, at Pleasure, its Marine Commerce. From thence, after a Voyage by Sea of Eleven Hours, in the most pleasant Weather in the world, I arriv'd at the Island of *Walcheren* in *Zealand*; 'tis a fruitful Land, and produces excellent Corn; we landed at *Terveur*, a good Port, and where is the best Arsenal in all *Zealand*: From whence, in one Hour, by Land, I came to *Middleburgh*, the Capital of *Zealand*, a very fine Town environ'd with a great Ditch without the Wall, and another within the Wall of the Town; it contains at least Six thousand Houses; its Town-House stands in its Market-Place, and makes a magnificent appearance. In what was formerly an Abbey, are kept the Admiralty, and the Assembly of the States of *Zealand*, and the *Mint*; there is a pretty good Spin-House, and the *Oosterse Kirk*, is very well worth seeing; but its Haven, so famous formerly, is worth nothing, no more than its *West-India* House, and its

*Middle-
bourg.*

its *East-India* House inconsiderable, which proceeds from the Decay of Trade in this Town the most of any Town in the Seven Provinces, caus'd by the high Customs and Duties impos'd on Merchandize, which drove away the Staple they were formerly possess'd of, to *Rotterdam*, who cherish it.

From *Middlebourgh*, in one Hour by Land, I came to *Flushing*, a very busie, Flushing. active, trading Seaport-Town, belonging in Propriety, to the late King *William*, in which are to be seen his House, and the Town-House; but its fine Haven is its greatest Beauty. Here I met with a good honest *Dutchman*, who hearing I was going for *Breskens*, on my way to *Sluyse*, desir'd to go in my Company with his little Girl, about Twelve Years old, to which I readily consented; but when about Ten in the Morning we came to the Sea-side. and he found the Wind pretty brisk, and the Day very suspicious, he soon chang'd his Mind, and us'd many Entreaties with me to defer my Voyage to better Weather, and brought Seamen who assur'd me 'twas very dangerous; but as they told me the Passage by Sea was but two Hours, and that I intended, if possible, to get to *Bruges*, that Night, and having always had good Weather at Sea, and

and being a Stranger to Fear, I was resolv'd (notwithstanding all they said) to go; and the rather, because I saw a Boat, less than ours, go off before my Face, with only one Passenger: So I embark'd in a little open Boat, not so long, but broader than the *London-Wherries*; there was in it, a *German*, a *Frenchman*, the Master of the Boat, and his Boy about Sixteen Years old, and my self, for I had discharg'd my *Dutch Footman* at *Middlebrough*, designing to hire a *French* one as soon as I should arrive at any of the *French Towns*: The Tide was Ebb, and bore us to the Eastward, and the Wind at North-West. We sail'd about an Hour tolerably well; but when the Wind becoming furious, full West, and directly contrary to the Tide, the Sky entirely overcast and dark, there arose such a Tempest as made our Sail useles, and shew'd us a Scene of inexpressible Terror: At first the Master endeavoured to return to *Flushing*; but finding that impossible, he turn'd to us all, trembling, and in a faltering Speech, pray'd us to recommend our selves to God, for that we were inevitably Lost, and could not ——— While he was yet speaking, a mighty Wave, like a Mountain, came dashing on the Boat, and fill'd her half full

full of Water, which struck the *Frenchman* with such Terror, he sunk down dead with Fear, and lay almost Senseless, during our whole Passage, while we Four with Hats, Cloaks, and whatever else was at hand, labour'd incessantly to lade out the Water that every Moment came pouring in upon us, and kept me under a constant Apprehension of sinking every Minute, for above Three Hours together, as the other little Boat did before our Eyes, within a Musquet-shot of Shoar, endeavouring to weather a Point of Land, to get into *Breskins*; we saw it, with a sad Cry, sink down to rights; and indeed, I must confess, till now, I had not known what 'twas to be afraid in my whole Life, but the monstrous mountainous Waves, that on all sides encompass'd us, and roaring, seem'd every Moment swallowing us up, putting me in mind of the Sorrows of Death that encompass'd me, and the Pains of Hell that got hold upon me, I found Trouble and Sorrow, and fill'd me with so much Terror, I remember I thought with my self, I wish'd to be a Beggar all the days of my Life, on condition to be safe at Land; and yet, tho' Death and Eternity star'd me in the Face, the only afflicting Thought, after my Sins, were that my
Brother,

Brother, and some of my Friends in *England* would never hear of my Fate, nor which way I had died, for I look'd on that so certain, that even when at last we got to Shoar, and that I touch'd and felt the Land, confirm'd by all my Sences, I knew not how to believe it, or that I was not drown'd; however, about Three of the Clock, we were at last, to our unspeakable Joy, thrown ashore about a Mile and half off the Village we intended. I no sooner touch'd Land, tho' I sunk a Foot in the Sand at every step, I threw my self on my Knees, and gave God Thanks for my Safe Delivery; which, while I was doing, the *Frenchman* and *German*, my Companions, posted away, leaving me to pursue my Journey alone, with my heavy wet Cloak on my Arm, and my heavy Portmanteau at my Back: However, I advanced with a very light Heart, tho' the Sand was so yeilding, every step I took was above my Ancles, and at every three or four Minutes I was interrupted with a Rivolet up to the Knees, making its way thro' the Sands, at Ebb Water, to the Sea, which I was forced to throw my Cloak and Portmanteau over first into the Mud, and to leap my self after: But all this was sweet to the past Danger; and in about an Hour, having
fur-

surmounted all this, and arriv'd at a hard gravelly Road; I pass'd on till I came to a large Cock of Straw, about half a Mile from the Village, on which I threw my Cloak, Portmanteau, and my self, all sweating and quite fainting with Wet, Hunger, and Toil, intending there to rest my self; which while I was doing, God's Providence sent that way the Coachman's Wife, who afterwards drove me to *Sluys*, who as'd me Twelve Stivers to carry my Baggage to the Village; I should hardly have abated any thing, and would willingly have given a great deal more, having 67 *Louis d'Ors* in my Pocket; but not knowing what I might expose my self to, by letting it be known what I had about me or by being too Generous; I bargain'd with her for Six Stivers, and so after a little pause, we came cheek by jole to *Breskins*; where one of the first Things I saw, was one of the Mens Bodies that was drown'd in the other Boat, which all wet and fainting as I was, I went to the Shore to see, and view'd with Tears, and a Concern and Passion not to be express'd: He was a Young Gentleman, about Twenty four Years old, handsome, well-made, had about him Nine Pound in Ducats and *Dutch Money* in his Pockets; and by some Papers in

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his

his Pockets, and his Habit, seem'd to be a *Frenchman*. At my return to the Village, I went to Bed, where I slept about Two Hours, while my Cloaths and Things were dry ing; and then having eaten and refresh'd my self, I took a Chaise, and before Nine of the Clock at Night, came safe to *Sluyse*, an old ill-built small Town, fortify'd with an Inlet of the Sea, and double Ditches, but its Castle is old, and the Fortifications of this Town, the most Ruinous, and least in Repair, as the Town is the worst Built of any *Dutch Town* I ever saw.

Sluyse.

From *Sluyse*, in a little time, I again entered the *Spanish* Dominions, and in Three Hours by Water, passing by *Damme*, a little Strong Hole, where are the great Sluces that command all this Country, I came to *Bruges*, the largest Town in all *Flanders*, next *Ghent*, but much dispeopled; its Cathedral Church dedicated to St. *Donatus* is large, but not very beautiful; close to it is the House, overagainst it is the Bishop's Town-House, a handsome Building, close to which is the *Uree Camer*; and not far off the Market-Place, in the Front of which are the old, but well-built Halls, with a fine high Steeple, and on one side a large House, built

Bruges.

built on Pillars; over the Water, at one end of the Town, stands *Tangbowen-Hoff*, where are the Pictures of *Charles* the Second, late King of *England*, and his two Brothers, who did their Exercise there, during their Exile; the Hospital for the Orphans is in no flourishing Condition, and the Beguinage almost in Ruins, near which is the Water Houle, formerly a pretty Sight, but now in Decay; the Church of *St. Salvador* is large and well-built, as is that of our Lady, tho' its Steeple is very crooked, in the middle of the Choir are two fine brazen Tombs of two Counts of *Flanders*, and before the Great Altar that of *Mary* of *Burgundy*, Heiress of the Seventeen Provinces, and near it that of *Charles* Count of *Charoolis*, of Brass gilt, and one of the same for *Mary* his Daughter; the Jesuit's Church is very fine, in that of *St. Basil*, I went to see some of our Saviour's Blood, which is shewn every *Friday*. In a sort of a Gallery, thro' which the People were to pass, stood the Priest, with a Bottle made of Looking glass, in shape and size like those made for *Hungary* Water, he held it out with both his Hands, and every one drop'd some Money in two vast broad Brass Basons that stood near him, and then kiss'd the

Bottle: I came, among the rest, and fix'd my Eyes on the Bottle, which contain'd a Substance like a congeal'd Gum, of a pale Ash-colour, stain'd in some places with Red; and so having my Curiosity satisfied, went to see the Abbey of the *Downs*; 'tis of *Bernardins*, and has one of the most beautiful Cloisters that can be seen; there is an *English* Nunnery of the Third Order of *St. Francis*, of Thirty Nuns, and another of *Augustine* Nuns in this City, which is fortify'd with double Ditches, tho' it is almost Deserted and without People, and in a languishing Condition, and no People in its Streets, and its Trade entirely lost, as indeed is that of all *Flanders*, except a little at *Ghent*.

ostend. From *Bruges*, in Four Hours, on the Canal, I came to *Ostend*, a clean Seaport-Town, about Half an Hour in Circumference, very strongly Scituated, the River *Hiperlee*, and the Sea environing it on all sides with Water, famous for the Seige it sustain'd for Three Years, Three Months, and Three Days; it is pretty well fortify'd, and capable of being made impregnable, did not the same sleepy, lazy languor reign here, as does in all the other *Spanish* Towns, and keep 'em in Neglect.

From

From *Ostend*, in Three Hours, by Land, all on the Sea-shore, I came to *Newport*, one of the Keys of this Country, and of great Importance, and fortified with many Works, kept in no Repair; but its chief Strength lies in its Sluces, with which it can drown the Country Three or Four Leagues round: Here is a Convent of *English Carthusians* of Five Monks, who being all gone abroad upon a *Thursday* to take the Air, I had the liberty of going all over their Convent; every one has a Parlour, a Bed-chamber, a Study, and a little Garden to himself, where those who love Solitude, may pass their Time with much Pleasure.

At *Newport*, at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon, having had my Portmanteau search'd carelessly enough, I Embarked; and in Three Hours on the Canal, I came to *Furnes*, where I soon found I was entered *France*, by the strict search made for Prohibited Goods: As soon as our Boat appear'd in sight of the Town, the Drums beat, and the Garrison stood to their Arms, while we marched through a Lane of them over the Counterscarp, and through the Outworks and Gates, into the Town; at every Forty Steps stood a Subaltern Officer, and the Captains of the Head

of their Companies; one of whom seeing me peeping and prying about, snatch'd a Lanthorn and came running, and held it to my Face, at which I smil'd; he ask'd me who I was, and my Business? I told him I was an *Englishman*, come from *Ostend*, and was going to *Paris*, and should take care to tell 'em there, how well the Officers at *Furnes* did their Duty; and so he went away, after having ordered a Souldier to see me to my Quarters: This is a pretty Town, has Three Churches and a handsome little Town-House, is very well fortified, commands several Passes in the Country, and is an admirable Frontier to *Dunkirk*; and for that reason, tho' it be but small, yet is Garrison'd, even in Times of Peace, with Two thousand Men.

Dunkirk.

From *Furnes*, Four Leagues on the Water, brought me to *Dunkirk*, a fine well-built, and great Trading Town, tho' its Trade is much decay'd since the Peace; 'tis adorn'd with a very large handsome Church, whose great Altar is very fine, and in one of the Chappels dedicated to *St. George*, is a Picture of the Martyrdom of that Saint, which is much esteem'd; here is an *English* Nunnery of poor Clares, and another of *Benedictine* Nuns, called the Rich Dames,

Dames, under the direction of the Jesuits: The King of *France* has establish'd a Chamber of Admiralty in this Town, which is divided into the Upper and the Lower; the Upper Town is but slightly fortify'd, but the Lower and the larger Town is prodigiously fortified, at an immense Charge, Three great Forts are built at small distances, and Command the River, the Sluces, and the Neighbouring Country; the Two long Galleries, with the Four Wooden Forts, which secure the entrance of its Port by Sea, are prodigious; its Two Risbancs are Forts stupendious, of the utmost Strength, contriv'd with much Art, and finish'd with as great Labour, and command the Canal by which all Ships enter the Town, and the Basen where lay Three Men of War of about Thirty six or Forty Guns; and the Dock deserves to be seen, as does the Cittadel, one of the finest in the World, whose Bastions are Mountains that give Defiance and Despair to the Beholders. In a Word, he that has not seen *Dunkirk*, has not seen the most celebrated Fortification, and the Master Piece of *Europe*. This Town was in Possession of the *English*, till sold to the *French* by King *Charles II.* here are Five thousand Men in Garrison

(even in Times of Peace) all picked chosen Men, whole haughty, fierce, brisk Mein, sufficiently shews the *French* Spirit is up; insulting force and violence appear'd in their very Faces, and the Severity of the *French* Government keeps them to an exact Discipline, and makes 'em very jealous of Strangers, whom, upon the least Suspicion, they bring before the Governour to be Examined, as they had me, but he dismiss'd me with very great Civility.

My Lord — Hitherto blest with the fairest Weather in the world, not having had above Four or Five bad Days, since I left *England*, I have travel'd with much Pleasure; and now having had nothing but Rain for Three or Four Days since I came hither: I am like to have but an indifferent Passage to *Paris*; however, I am resolved to undergo all for my Improvement, to be the better able to serve my Friends, among whom there is none I have more Zeal for than your Lordship, nor subscribe my self more truly, nor with more Respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordships, &c.

LET.

LETTER VIII.

Paris.

My Lord,

THE Rains which had fallen almost the whole time, during my stay at *Dunkirk*, being ceased, I parted from thence; and having travel'd Four Leagues by Land, I came to *Gravelin*, *Gravelin*. a small ill-built Town, in which is one Church of no beauty, and an *English* Nunnery of *Clares*; but its Cittadel, tho' old and with round Bastions, yet it is esteemed a very strong one; and the Out-works to this Town, as they are very numerous, so are they very good. From *Gravelin* 'tis counted Five Leagues by Land to *Calais*, and we should have got thither by Sun-sett, if a comical Adventure had not befallen us; for a poor *French* Officer, with whom I travel'd, having in the Inn observ'd my Cloak to be swell'd at the bottom with something between the outside and Lining, and which indeed was nothing but some black Cloth I had put there to keep me warm, and to make me a Coat at *Paris*; under the
pre-

pretence only of going on before, acquaints the Custom-House Officers; so that we were scarce advanced half a Mile out of Town, but the Coach was stop'd, under pretence of searching for Prohibited Goods; but that being only a Feint, the Officer being before instructed, soon found my Cloak, and with inexpressible greediness, seized it as a Prey; at first we had a little Argument, I assuring him that 'twas nothing but the inner Cloth Lining sunk down; and he affirming it to be a Paquet of Lace brought from *Flanders*: But finding the more I seem'd Concerned, the more was he confirmed in his Suspicions, I said little; when he whipping out his Scissars, as nimbly as a Taylor, rip'd it open, where, to his great Mortification, he found it as I said: And so after half a dozen humble Grimmaces, and as many impertinent Compliments, very much disappointed, he left us to pursue our Journey, tho' by this Delay it was Night e're we arrived at *Calais*, a Town not large nor well-built, having but one Church, whose great Altar is very Magnificent; but it is considerable for its Risbanc, its Fort *Rouge* and Fort *Verte*, its double Ditches, and above all, for its Cittadel, a very good one, and for its other Fortifications, which render

Calais.

render it very strong. Here my Host thinking to Complement me, told me I lay in the same Bed *Goodman* did when he ran away.

From hence I saw happy *England's* Cliffs, and could scarce resist the Temptation of going thither, nor that of going streight to *Paris* by Coach ; but considering 'twould be more for my Instruction to see the whole *French* Frontier, I struck off on one Side, and from *Calais*, after a Passage of Sixteen Leagues on the River, I came to St. *Omars*, strongly *Omars.* situated, and as strongly fortified ; on one Side environed with Marshes, in which are to be seen several floating Islands, some of which are so large as to admit Cattle to feed upon 'em, and are shaded with mighty Trees ; and hard by is the Rich Abbey of *Clermarts* : And though it be so strong already, yet while I was there they were working very hard, and increasing its Fortifications. Its Cathedral, dedicated to St. *Omar*, is very large and well built, but infinitely exceeded by the Church of the Abbey of St. *Bertin*, founded by *Stephen* King of *England*. This Abbey is one of the Richest in *Europe*, and its Church one of the most Glorious that can be seen. The Marble Pillars that support the Organs, and those that adorn the Jube, are of

of an incredible Bigness, Beauty, and Price; and the carving of the Marble Jube surpasses all I have yet seen. And though this Church be not so tawdry as that at *Antwerp* or *Ghent*, yet it may justly pass for one of the finest Churches of Christendom, though it is more esteem'd here for some of the Virgin *Mary's* Milk and Hair. There is a Convent of about Thirty *English* Jesuits, and a Seminary or School, where I counted One hundred sixty three *English* Youths that there were bred up in a Religion inconsistent with, and destructive to that publickly profess'd in their Native Country; and tho' they knew me a Protestant, yet they received me with all the Civility and Address that insinuates into the Heart, and captivates the Souls of Men. A League off *St. Omers* at *Watte* is another *English* Jesuit's Noviciat or Seminary, where lies buried Father *Peters*, the late King *James's* Confessor.

Ipres.

From *St. Omers* I travell'd Nine Leagues by Land to *Ipres*, strongly situated on the River *Ipres*, and where the large Market-place, and Town-house with its high Steeple, the great Halls for Cloath, the Cathedral dedicated to *St. Martin*, though not very Magnificent, *St. Peter's* Church, the Jesuit's Convent, and the Hospital, are what are most remarkable.

markable. There the *French King* hath lately establish'd a Sovereign Parliament, there being only that at *Tournay* before in all the *French-Flanders*.

From *Ypre* 'tis counted Four Leagues by Land to *Menin*, a small Town scituate on the *Lis*, and remarkable for little but its numberless Fortifications, which makes it esteem'd now one of the best Fortified Frontier Towns belonging to *France*. *Menin.*

From *Menin* 'tis Five Leagues by Land to *Lille*, seat'd on the River *Deule*, the Capital of *French Flanders*, as 'tis the largest and best built Town of their New Conquests. 'Tis large, well peopled, and is the only Town of *Flanders* except *Ghent*, where there is a brisk Trade. It has a Chamber of Accounts, a Mint, and Money-Chamber; and is adorned with a handsome Church dedicated to St. *Peter*, a well built Town-house, near which is the Play-house, a fine Exchange, and two large beautiful Squares, and many new and regular built Streets; a good clean Hospital, a fine Jesuit's Convent, where there is a good Library, a pretty Garden and Water-works: The Dominican's Garden, with the Azylum and Holy Mountain, are well worth seeing. *Lille* is fortified with Walls, Ditches, Ravelins on one Side, and with our Saviour's *Lille.*

viour's Fort on the other, and with a Citadel the most beautiful of any in *Europe*.

Douay.

From *Lille*, by the Canal, in Nine Hours, I came to *Douay*, an ill built Town on the River *Scarpe*, and within a Mile of a Fort of that Name, a Pentagon built by the *French*, and which, by means of Sluces, can drown the Country. The City is situated almost at an equal Distance from *Arras*, *Lille*, *Tournay* and *Valenciennes*; which I conceive is the Reason why the *French King* has fix'd here an Arsenal, and a Foundry for Cannon, though upon a strict View, Enquiry and Comparison, I think the Artillery cast here much inferior to those cast in the Foundry at the *Hague*. Its chief Church is dedicated to *St. Ame*, which depends immediately on the See of *Rome*, and is an old ill built Structure. The bare-footed Carmelite's New Church, when finished, will be very beautiful: The Women's Abbey of *d'Espres* is one of the richest, largest, and best built in the Province. But *Douay* glories most in its University, which yet is much inferior to that of *Louvain*. Its Publick Schools make a wretched Appearance; and it has but Ten Colleges, though more frequented by our *English* Catholicks than *Louvain*, or even than *St. Omar's*; for here is a Convent of *English*

lib Cordeliers, and another of about Thirty *English* Benedictines; a great College of Secular Priests and Students of One hundred and Fifty, a Seminary of about Sixty *English* Youths, another of as many *Scots*, and a Covent of *Scots* Jesuits.

From *Doway* 'tis Eight Leagues by Land to *Tournay*, seated on the *Schelde*, *Tournay*. well fortified, tho' thrice taken on St. *Andrew's* Day; but now secured with old Walls, large dry Ditches, with a new Cittadel, all curiously undermined; a Pentagon with double Bastions: Not far from which is a large Arsenal, filled with prodigious Quantities of all sorts of Warlike Ammunition. Here is kept one of the Parliaments of *France*, in a Chamber, which, were it finished, would be a Noble Structure; but that is not the only Thing the *French* have undertook and have not finished: Though the New Builings on the Fine *Kay* Side are very beautiful, as is our Lady's Church, with its Four Steeples, and the best Chimes I ever heard, though much inferior to the Church of St. *Martin's*, whose first Stone was laid by this present *French* King, and when finished, will be of much greater Magnificence than that at the Convent of the *Croisiers*, whose Fame is greater than its Merit.

From

Amand.

From *Tournay* 'tis Seven Leagues all on a curious Causeway to *Valenciennes*, but I would advise all Travellers to stop as I did at St. *Amand*, at the End of Five, where they will see a Church whose Structure surpasses, in my Opinion, all that I had seen, and perhaps most in the Universe: 'Tis Two Churches in One, or rather, one Church built on another. The Pleasure I took in viewing it, and the Desire I have your Lordship should partake of it, fills me with Eagerness to give your Lordship its Description, which, when I seriously consider, I am confounded in Admiration and Despair, and can say no more, but that to give you Adequate Idea's of all its Beauties, is a Task above the utmost Efforts of the most capable Pen or Tongue. This Glorious Church belongs to an Abbey of the same Name; and so Rich, its Revenue is near 30000 Pound Sterling *per Annum*; and is Three Leagues from *Valenciennes*, where at last I arrived, after having passed *Vicogne*, another Abbey; in the Sides of whose Church the Passion of our Saviour is very well represented in Basse Relief, and its Screen a curious Piece of Marble, well wrought. 'Tis a finer Church within, but not so well without as St. *Amand*; and its Revenue almost as great. The largest

Valenciennes.

the largest Church is dedicated to the Virgin *Mary*, and is very indifferent. *St. John's* Chappel is worth seeing; and above all, the Carmelite's New Church. Its Town house and the Halls are Old, but handsome Buildings. Formerly here was a Beguinage, but now 'tis in Ruins; for the *French*, whose Policy encourages Procreation where-ever they come, discouraged it as they do others. But they have here an Arsenal, and have built a surprizing prodigious Cittadel, and have strengthened this Town with vast Outworks, and other Fortifications; and by means of their Sluces, and the *Schelde* on which 'tis scituated, can lay so much of the Country under Water, as renders *Valenciennes* inaccessible, at least on one Side.

From *Valenciennes* 'tis Seven Leagues to *Cambray*, scituated on the *Schelde*, and fortified with a Square Cittadel, a Fort, and several very good Outworks. 'Tis esteemed a Town of great Strength; in which is a very large Market-place; and a Clock, where several Statues strike the Hours, and chimes pleasantly enough. Its Cathedral is dedicated to our Lady, and is a beautiful Structure. 'Tis the Cathedral of an Archbishoprick, of a vast Extent, and as great an Income. Near it is the House of the Famous Archbishop, who has lately made

so much Noise in the World ; part of which had been burnt a little before my Arrival. There is an *English* Nunnery of about Thirty Benedictin Nuns ; and the Abbey of St. *Aubert* appears like a Palace, and is fit to entertain a Prince.

Quintin.

Here, after having travelled Seven Laques by Land from *Cambray* thro' *Piccardy*, a fine Corn Country, I came into *Old France* at St. *Quintin*, an indifferent Town, adorn'd with a handsome large Church, and well fortified ; where the Custom-house Officers make a very strict Search.

Noyon.

From St. *Quintin* 'tis Eight Leagues by Land to *Noyon*, scituate on the River *Oyse*. 'Tis famous for the crowning *Hugh Capet*, the First King of the Third Race, excluding *Charles* of *Lorraine*, the deceased King *Lewis*'s Unkle ; and for being the Place of the Birth of the Famous *John Calvin*: The House where he was born they shewed me ; and he was Chaplain, but not Canon, of this Church. This City is very ill built, but is adorned with a fine beautiful Cathedral, and its Bishop is one of the Ecclesiastical Counts and Peers of *France*.

From *Noyon* 'tis Six Leagues by Land to *Compeigne*, a pretty Town, charmingly scituated on the *Oyse* or *Aisne*, near a fine

a fine Forest, and a great Plain fit for all sorts of Game; and where the late Famous Review of the *French* Troops was made. 'Tis adorned with a fine Castle, a Palace of the Kings. In making a Sally out of this Town was the Famous Maid of *Orleance* taken Prisoner. There is a fine Abbey of *St. Corneille*; and the Carmelites have a fine Convent.

From *Compeigne* 'tis Eight Leagues by Land to *Senlis*, which, tho' a Bishop's See, is an old built Town, affording nothing remarkable. *Senlis.*

Thence 'tis Ten Leagues by Land to *Paris*, where I arrived with my Imagination filled with all those Glories and Idea's of Grandeur, which the *French* labour with so much Zeal to create in those that believe, they speak as much Truth as other Men; for to read the printed Description of it, the Authors that write of it, and to hear them speak, a sincere well-meaning Person, used to genuine Descriptions and Truth, unacquainted with the *French* Vein, and how fond they are of appearing great in all things, would be apt to conclude this the finest City of the Universe, till he arrives here, and, when in the Middle of it, ask which is *Paris*, and see the Difference between *Paris* in Reality and *Paris.*

Paris in Fiction: And I question not but when he shall, with as much Care and Attention as I, view, examine and compare, he will conclude, That (although all the Houses appearing as of Stone, and all, even the meanest Mechanicks, all Sash Windows, together with the many Palaces of the Nobility, gives it many Graces, and makes it a beautiful City); yet 'tis excelled by *London*; I am sure it is my impartial Opinion, after the most diligent Examination I was capable of making, and having seen, with as much Care and Exactness as I was capable, all that was curious in the whole Town: The more remarkable of which, to begin near my Quarters, are the Place where the Great King *Henry IV.* was murdered by *Ravaillac*, 14th of *May*, 1510. marked out with an Iron Stake: Near it is *St. Innocent's* Church-yard, said to devour dead Corps in 24 Hours; which I found false upon a nicer Enquiry: Near it is the Halls. The greatest Market-place of *Paris*, which, however magnified in *French*, whosoever shall exactly survey, will find Old Cloaths and Shoes to be there sold in greater Plenty than either good Beef or Mutton. Hard by you'll find the Grand Place *des Victoires*, so large 'tis almost as big as *Warwick* Court by *Newgate*;

gate; but 'tis adorned with one of the best Statues in *Paris* of Brass gilt, on a Pedestal of Marble, representing the present *French* King a foot in his Robes of State. Behind him is Victory, with one Foot on a Globe, and she stretches out her self to crown him with a Crown of Lawrels, while he treads on a *Cerberus*, by which is meant his triumphing over the triple League: And at the Four Corners are Four brazen Slaves chained; the whole weighs about 30000 Pound. Its Inscription begins *Viro Immortali*; but I will not give you the rest, because printed in many Books. Not far from thence is the Place *des Conquetes*, another Instance of the *French's* undertaking more than they go through with, since they could never build here further than the Wall for the Fronts of the Houses. But the Statue in the Middle is what is most talk'd of: 'Tis likewise of Brass gilt, representing also this *French* King, with one Arm stretched out commanding, and his Hand open, and with the other governing his Horse, in the *Roman* Habit, but with a Peruke: A ridiculous Solecism! Both Man and Horse are made at one Cast; and 'tis said to weigh 90000 Weight, and to be Twenty Foot high; a very clumsy Piece. I shall not trouble your Lord-

ship with the ridiculous Pageantry used at the setting up of this Image, because, without doubt, your Lordship has already been made acquainted with it; but the Inscription, because it is new, and no where that I know of printed; I copied, and it is one of the modestest that was ever yet made in *France*, as followeth.

Ludovico Magno 14^o. Franciæ & Navarra, Regi Christi anissimo victori perpetuo Religionis vindici justo, pio felici, Patri Patria erga urbem munificentissimo quam Arcubus fontibus Plateis Ponte lapideo vallo amplissimo arboribus consito decoravit innummeris beneficijs cumulavit quo imperante securi vivimus neminem timemus statuam hanc equestrem diu oblatam recusavit & Civium amor omniumq; votis indulgens erigi tandem passus est præfectus & Ediles acclamante Populo læti posuere Anno Millesimo sexcentesimo nonagesimo nono optimum principem Deus servet.

From hence you may go to the *Place Dauphine*, over *Pontneuf*; a handsome open Bridge, adorn'd with the Statue of *Henry IV.* on Horseback, on a Marble Square Pedestal, at each Corner of which is a Slave chained: 'Tis looked on as the best, as 'tis the oldest, in *Paris*; and whose Inscription, because printed, I shall not trouble your Lordship

ship with: From this Statue you have the best Prospect in *Paris*.

Place Dauphine is built on the Point of the Isle of the Palace joining to *Pontneuf*, of a Triangular Form, with handsome Houses all of the same Symetry. Next is the *Place Royal*, the most beautiful Square in all *Paris*, being Seventy two Fathoms square, built of Brick of divers Colours, in the Reign of *Henry IV*. 'Tis built on Arches like the Piazza of *Covent Garden*. In the Middle is the Statue of *Lewis XIII*. on Horseback: 'Tis of Brass, on a Marble Pedestal, raised by Cardinal *Richlieu*, and the Inscriptions on the Four Faces (which I will not trouble your Lordship with, because in print) are as much to the Glory of the Cardinal as of the King.

The Mint here is an old lowly Building; and the Hospital *de la Trinité*, for the Orphans, is a nasty Sight. *St. Lawrence's Fair*, beginning on the Tenth Day of *August*, and lasting above a Fortnight, is the best I ever saw. The King's Library, disposed in Fourteen Rooms, Eight above and Eight below, though I can scarce believe it has the 50000 Volumes they boast of, is yet the best I ever saw after the *Bodlian Library* at *Oxford*. It has a great Number of well-

chose bound Books, and a great many choice Manuscripts: But I was pleas'd with nothing so much as the large Collection of Original State Papers, here bound up in several Volumes, containing Affairs of State from the Time of *Francis I.* to the Ministry of Cardinal *Richlieu*. I saw some very curious Letters of the proper Hand-writing of *Henry IV.* to Queen *Elizabeth*, about the Death of *Mary Queen of Scots*; though the *French* highly value here the Antiquities found in the Tomb of *Childerick*, who, as they pretend, was the Fourth King of *France*, and the Predecessor to *Clovis*. The Palace Royal, built by Cardinal *Richlieu*, is one of the handsomest Places of *Paris*, but low: 'Tis compos'd of Two Courts, the first and least is built, but the Face of the second is open, and discovers the Garden, of no beauty. Here lives the *Duc d'Orleans*, only Brother to the *French King*; who nightly suffers here publicly, all sorts of Gaming in a manner beneath the Gravity, Dignity, and Quality of his Birth: I had a Letter to his First Physician, who shew'd me all the Appartments; the most beautiful of which, is the Gallery, adorn'd with the Pictures of several Great Men of *France*; but the greatest Ornament of this

this Palace is the Opera Theatre, larger, but not so rich, nor so well contriv'd, as that of *Dorset-Garden* in *London*. Here I have been at several Opera's, whose Musick pleased not my Ears, and is much inferior to the *English* and *Italian*, but their Dancing superior: Not far from whence is the *Louvre*, the mighty Palace which is so undeservedly extoll'd in *French*; but in *English* an old vast incongruous and ruinous Building, not worth examining or seeing: I saw there a Parlour, a plain Ground Room wainscoted, in which assemble the famous *French* Academy for the Improvement of the *French* Language, the Barrenest, the fullest of Circumlocutions, and the most Verbose of any in *Europe*; 'tis smooth, and express'd much in Action, elegant, but not copious; and 'twas that that put Cardinal *Richlieu* on Forming the Accademy; and hence 'tis, that tho' a too great Severity to the Rules of Speech may hinder 'em from being good Poets; yet are they pretty good Orators. On the back-side of the *Louvre*, is the Gallery of Painting and Sculpture, which is worth seeing, which, by another great Gallery Five hundred Yards long, is join'd to the Palace of *Tuilleries*, a Palace stretch'd out in Front, not unlike *London* Bedlam;

it

it is considerable for little but its Paintings and Gildings, which are very good and numerous; and its Theatre for the Play is esteem'd the finest of the World; its Garden is the most charming Sight in *Paris*, and is frequented as a Walk by all the *Beau-monde* there; at the end of it is the *Cours de la Reine*, or *Hide-Park*, a treble Walk of Trees, about a Mile long, by the River-side, and very low; and for the freedom of Air, and extension of Prospect, inferiour to ours. The Fair of *St. Germain's* begins the Third Day of *Feburary*, N. S. and lasts a Month or Six Weeks, and is the largest, best, and most crowded I ever saw. *L'Hôtel d'Conde*, tho' the Building is not Magnificent, is worth seeing within: And the Palace *d'Orleance*, or *Luxembourg*, is without doubt the finest Palace in *Paris* for an ancient Building. Hard by is the *French Comedy*; in which, at least in the Comick Part, I think they exceed us. The *Gobelins* here are almost ruined, there not being above Six or Seven Rooms imploy'd, when formerly so many curious Works were there fram'd by several hundred Hands; which I wondred at, since I found all the rest that belonged to the King, in a Flourishing Condition: The Kings, or the

the Physick-Garden, is a large, poor, confus'd Place, and inferior to all I have yet seen. In the middle of *Paris*, in the Isle of that Name, is the Palace, whose great Hall, so boasted of by the *French* Writers, is nothing, if compared with that at *Westminster*. In this Palace are kept the Courts of Justice for the Kingdom, *viz.* The great Chamber of Parliament, *Chambre des Comptes*, *Grand Concile*, *Cour des Aydes*, *Requetes de Chotel la Monoye*, *Bureau des Tresauriers de France*, *Chambre du Tresor*, *Baillage de Palais*, *Conetablerie & Marechaussee Admirante Eaux & Forestes*, Two *Chatelets*; at the biggest of which is administred the Criminal and Civil Justice for the City, and several other inferior Courts; a particular Account of which, would swell this Letter to a great bulk to little purpose: I shall only say in General, That the *French* Pleaders use a great deal of Rheotrick, and are great Orators, and study the Language as well as the Sense; for I have often heard them (being obliged to go thither once or twice a Week) speak a long time with pleasure; tho' I could not find any deep Argument or Force of Reason in their Discourse. Not far off is the Town-house, in the place de Greve, where they do their great Executions, as well

as

as expose their publick Spectacles. The Town-Hall is inferior to *Guild-Hall*; at the upper end of the Court is a good Statue of the King. The Arsenal is an old lousie Place, in which nothing is remarkable, the Foundry being long since translated to the Frontier Towns: Not far from the Arsenal is the Bastille, a Square Castle with round Towers; 'tis of no Streugth, nor of any other Use but a Prison for some Prisoners of State. From the Gate of *St. Antoine* to *St. Martins*, about One Fourth of the Circumference of the Town, is a pleasant Walk of Trees, a pleasant Ornament; 'tis pity 'tis not continued round the Town; and without the Gate is *Rambouillet*, from whence the Protestant Ambassadors make their Entry; near which is what I think the most considerable Sight in *Paris*, if not in all *France*: I had been searching into all their Manufactures, and impartially compared 'em with ours, and found the Advantage much on our side; till I came hither and found out the Lookinglass Manufacture, which surpasses any thing in *England*, or perhaps in the Universe: I saw one Glass above Nine Foot long and Seven broad; there were above Eight hundred Workmen employ'd all together about this Manufacture, in a
fort

sort of a Colledge: I wish some of 'em were enticed over hither, to live better, and not in that Misery they now do.

This Manufacture was much better worth seeing than the neighbouring Palace of *St. Vincent*, belonging to the King, where died our Great *Henry* the Vth. Conqueror of *France*: The old Castle is pulled down, and part rebuilt by Cardinal *Mazarine*, in Two Wings, where the *French* King resided in his Youth, tho' it has nothing extraordinary; its Menagerie, famous heretofore, is ruined and forgot; and its Park in a wasteful Condition. The Temple at *Paris* here is an old nasty Building, and remarkable for nothing so much as its bringing in a good Revenue of about 6000 Pound Sterling *per Annum* to the Grand Prior of *France*; who has there a fine House, and is of a greater Family than Learning, which is not so much encouraged; the University here, tho' so much talked of, being dwindled into nothing, its Fifty five Colledges all ruinous, all deserted, but about Eight or Nine, and none of those considerable, except that of the Four Nations; a beautiful Building, adorn'd with a handsome Dome, a fine Library, and a fine Church; in which is the Tomb of Cardinal *Mazarine*, one of the noblest I ever saw.

This

This Colledge is under the Direction of the Doctors of the *Sorborme*; another Colledge, Founded by *Robert Sorbonne*, of the Chamber to *Lewis IX* and New-built by Cardinal *Richlieu*; 'tis beautified with a noble Modern Church, in which is the stately Tomb of the Cardinal *Richlieu*, of white Marble; in the top of the Church is a stately Cupulo; there is a good Library in the best Gallery in all *Paris*. This Colledge is only for Doctors of Divinity; three of whom, with the Parliament of *Paris*, are the Pillars of the *French Church*: This University is Governed by a Rector, a Vice-Chancellor, Four Proctors, Four Intrantes and the Regent Masters. The Colledge of *Clermont*, *alias Loui le Grand*, is of Jesuits; a Set of Men who are the Support of the Romish Church; they every where Engross the Education of Youth, insomuch, that sometimes they have Fourteen or Fifteen hundred in this Colledge; 'tis large, and a handsome Building, and has a pretty good Library; and is perhaps one of the most dangerous Seminaries against the Protestant Religion. Here are the Two famous Jesuits, *Bouhours* and *Rapin*; yet, as well as Ecclesiasticks fare, there are no fine Churches in *Paris*; the largest and handsomest is
that

that of *St. Eustace*, which is yet much inferior to many I have seen. The Abbess of the Convent of *St. Joseph*, is *Mlle de Montespan*, the King's last Mistress. The Abbey of *St. Germain*, founded by *Childebert*, Son of the Great *Clovis*, whose Tomb is in the Choir of the Church, is old and ill-built: King *Casimir*'s Tomb is its greatest Ornament; but its Library, tho' not very large, is much esteem'd; tho' what I thought most Remarkable, was an old Psalter, said to be of *St. Germain*; and another Book full of Attestations of Greek Bishops, concerning their Belief of Transubstantiation; which I really think Authentick, and a great Proof of its Belief in the other Christian Churches. This Book *Mr. Arnauld* brought from *Constantinople* with much trouble, by means of *Monsieur Nointell*, French Ambassador at the Port, to use against the Protestants, who say the Greek Church denies Transubstantiation: The Abbot of this Abbey of *St. Germain*, is Lord of all this *Fauxbourg*, and I was told 'twas worth 30 thousand Pound sterl. per Annum: 'Tis now enjoy'd by Cardinal *Furstemburgh*; and before him, by one of the King of *France*'s Natural Children; and before him, by King *Casimir* of

of Poland; 'tis of the Order of *St. Benedict*.

Not far from thence is the Convent of the Bare-footed *Carmelites*; in whose Church is a Statute of the blessed Virgin *Mary*, with her Infant on her Lap; 'tis of White Marble, and is one of the most beautiful in the World; 'twas made at *Rome*, and brought hither at vast Expence.

Not far from thence is the Convent of the *Dominicans* or *Jacobins*, so called from *Rue St. Jaques*; the Church is old, ill-built, and their Library very mean and old, and graced with *St. Thomas Aquinas's* Chair, who professed Divinity in the Convent. In the *Fauxbourg S' Jaques*, is the Convent of *Val de Grace*; Founded by *Ann of Austria*, this present King's Mother: Its Description would take up a VOLUME: I shall only tell you, that the great Altar under the Dome is surprizingly Glorious, has a dazling Effect, and is one of the finest, if not the finest Thing in *Paris*; the whole Cupulo admirably well Painted in the inside, and possessed of a thousand beauties. But the Throne of Superstition in this City, is the Shrine of *St. Genevieve*, the Patroness of *Paris*; 'tis in the Church of the Abbey of that Name, and of the Order of *Augustines*, and is
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of a great Revenue in the Church; behind the high Altar, is the Chafe or Body of that Saint, 'tis of Silver Gilt, adorn'd with Precious Stones of immense Value, sustain'd on four high Pillars of a very extraordinary Marble: To this Saint are attributed many False Miracles, and her Body is carried about on extraordinary Occasions. In the middle of the Choir is the Tomb of *Clovis*; and the Image on the Tomb-Stone is said to be made just after his Death; near it, is that of *Clotilde* his Wife, who was the cause of her Husband's Conversion: In the same Church is, the Tomb of the famous *Des Cartes*; the Inscription is Printed, so I shall not trouble your Lordship with it. The Library of this Abbey is in a Gallery vastly long, the Books numerous and well-disposed; 'tis well beautified with Bustoes, a curious Clock; and at the end is a Closet, filled with Curiosities, in the nature of our *Gresham-Colledge*, and a good Collection of Medals: Further on in the *Fauxbourg* of *St. Victor*, is the Abbey of that Name; 'tis of Canons regular, of the Order of *St. Augustine*, of which Cardinal *Coaslin* is Abbot; tis old, but indifferently built, and very spacious, with a Library, one of the best in *Paris*, and the only one that is publick or open; and is open to all Students,

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dents, *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.* At the Entrance is an Order to prevent the stealing of Books; which I don't remember to have seen in any other Nation but *France.* Near the Palace, is the Saint Chappel built by *Sauil Lewis* the Ninth, 1248. Here they pretend to shew our Saviour's Crown of Thornes, some of his Blood, his Purple Robe, Reed, and a piece of his Cross; these are behind the Altar: This Chappel is a fine antient Building, and in my Mind, superior to the Cathedral of *Nostre-Dame*, an old clumsy Gothick Building, Three hundred and ninty six Foot long, and One hundred and fifty broad; it has Four rows of Pillars, Thirty in a row, and Two square Towers at the West-end; from these Towers, tho' they are but Two hundred and four Foot high, you have the best Prospect of the City of *Paris.* On the Point of the Island is Archbishop's, the *Duc de Noailles's* House, a very ancient, small nasty Hole; but part of it lately new-built, and furnished with an extream Magnificent. The great Jesuits Church, is one of the finest in this City; it has a magnificent Frontispeice in this Colledge, is the famous Jesuit *Bourdauloe*; a handsome Gallery goes round the Church, with an Iron Grill.

Grill. Here I was on *Christmas* day in the Morning, and heard the finest Musick I ever heard in my Life; two large Angels supporting the Heart of K. *Lewis XIII.* and the Tomb of a late Prince of *Conde*, are the greatest Ornament of this Church, near which is a very good Library, worth seeing; not far off, out of the *Fauxbourg*, *St. Anthony*, is the Convent of *Pickpuce*, where are the prettiest Grotto's of Shells that can be seen; and from whence all Popish Ambassadors make their Entry: Further on the Road up the River at *Charenton*, I saw the Place where formerly stood the famous Protestant Church, where now is a little ugly Nunnery. In *Paris* are Seven *English* Convents, viz. 1st. In *Fauxbourg*, *St. Jacques*, one of Twenty four *Benedictins*; 2^{dly}, *Les filles Converses Angloises*; 3^{dly}, In *Fauxbourg*, *St. Victor*, one of *Irish* Secular Priests, or Seminary; 4^{thly}, One of *Scots* Secular Priests or Seminary; 5^{thly}, One of Sixty *Augustine* Nuns; 6^{thly}, One of Thirty *Benedictine* Nuns in *Fauxbourg* *St. Anthony*; 7^{thly}, One of Twenty *Visitation* Nuns; and near *Paris*, a Convent of *Carmelites*: But the most glorious Cupulo of *Paris*, is that of the *Invalids*, its Top is all gilded, and will be, when finish'd, a Sight exceeding all at *Paris*;

it is a Foundation of this Kings, and a haughty Building, consisting of a large square Court, and two lesser ones of each side; 'tis larger and more august than that at *Chelsea*, but inferior to it in Pleasure and Scituation; and above all in Neatness and Cleanliness, which in part proceeds from the Nature of the People; for at my very looking into a Parlour, where many were assembled together, I was ready to Vomit, and struck down with the Scent. The *Petites Maisons*, or Bedlam at *Paris*, is large, but a miserable Spectacle; the poor Distracted being penn'd up in Dens, like the Lyons in the Tower of *London*, and miserably look'd to. The Hospitals of *la Charite*, in the same Suburb, founded by *Henry IV.* is the neatest and best kept of any in *Paris*; 'tis serv'd by Religious, of the Order of *St. John*, out of Town, by the same Suburb. At *Bissegre* is another Hospital, where the Men Beggars are kept with much Severity, and is part of the *Salpetriere*, or Hospital General, in which are shut up Five thousand poor, a strange Spectacle: I went all over it; and the Infants, under Three Years old, and the young Women, are the best worth seeing; 'tis as clean as possible, for a *French* Hospital to be; tho' I am sure the *English* Hogs
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are better serv'd than the Poor there; tho' the Sick are better minded in the *Hotel-Dieu*, where in several Galleries are a thousand Beds, look'd after by Austin Nunns, whose Care I have often admired, tho' there are Four in a Bed; which if compared to the *Dutch Hospitals*, is very nauseous: And overagainst it is the Hospital of *Enfants trouvez*, or Children found in the Streets removed from *Fauxburg St. Anthony* hither, where I saw about Eighty at Supper in a nasty Condition: These are the most Remarkable Things in the City of *Paris*; which some who pretend to accurateness say contains Thirty four, or Thirty five thousand Houses, and Two Million of People; but upon a more strict Enquiry, I found it to be about Five *Paris- Leagues*, or Eleven *English Miles* round, and to contain above Eight hundred Streets, all well paved; about Twenty four thousand Houses; about Two hundred and sixty Palaces, or Great Houses, which are one of its greatest Ornaments; Fifty one Parishes, Fifty two Convents of Men; Seventy eight of Women, and about 8 or 9 hundred thousand People: 'Tis of a Circular Form, and lies in Forty eight Degrees, Fifty one Minutes North-Latitude, and Twenty five Degrees, Thirty one

Minutes Longitude. 'Tis situated in a Country very pleasant for Sight ; but a light, dry, weak Soil, and wants the Strength and Riches of that about *London* : But one of *Paris*'s greatest Defects, is, its want of good Water ; there being in all the Town but two fountains, and neither of them laid into Peoples Houses ; the Water of the River *Seine* being very unwholesome, and most pernicious to Strangers, and giving them the Flux ; a Sickness I had almost all the time I was at *Paris*. The other Water of *Rungis* or *Arcueil*, is bad for the Stone, nor is there any more those flourishing Ten Academies, formerly so renowned ; but now divided into Two, and those indifferent enough : The Air is thin and weak, nor is the Nourishment much better, at least, as they order it ; most of the Meat being rotten before they eat it, which is very nauseous to Strangers, who are not here in so great Numbers as formerly, as well as the nastiness of the People, whose Conversation is insinuating enough, and full of Art, as 'tis the most crafty and over-reaching in their Dealing ; proceeding from their great Poverty : For the Traders of *Paris* have little Money to Trade with, and but few Goods in their Shops, or Warehouses ; and all sorts of Things are extreamly dear,

dear, which, in part, may proceed from the many sorts of Duties, paid to the King, on all sorts of Commodities; and the Traders of *Paris*, are much inferior to *London*, in Riches; the Streets being filled with Poor, and yet no Bridewel or Hospital for Rogues; which may be one cause why the Streets of *Paris* are so unsafe for Travellers; there being nightly Roberies, and often Murders committed; an Example of which, I saw under my Window; for about Five in the Morning, as I lay in Bed, I heard a Pistol discharg'd, and presently afterwards, the clashing of Swords; at which, coming to my Window, I saw two Ruffians, plundering an unfortunate Gentleman, whom they had before run into the Thigh; and this in the sight of the whole Neighbourhood, who were come to their Windows and looked on, and even while three Coaches passed by, without so much as offering to give them the least Disturbance; which, they say, the *Guet* ought to take care of; But in the mean time, Villany is Encouraged.

And indeed, upon the whole, *Paris* is much inferior to what I expected; and 'twas with a great deal of pleasure that I left it to go to *Fontain-Bleau*; Fontain-Bleau. where, after travelling Fourteen Leagues,

gues, all on a curious Causey: I arriv'd at a time when the Court was there, and it was in its greatest Splendor. What I found most Remarkable in the House which was built by *Francis I.* is first, the *Courdes Cuifines* is an old nasty Building; the Gallery *Des Cerfs*, on the side of which are painted all the Palaces of the Kings of France; next is the Queens Gallery, adorn'd with beautiful Pictures in *Fresco*; the Oval Court is well built; and that of the *Cheveal Blanc* is all Plaster, very large, but not well built; in the Queens Garden, is nothing Curious; the Gallery in which is painted all the Works of *Ulysses*, is worth seeing; but of all the Apartments, those of the late King *James* and his Queen, are the best. From whence you pass into the *Courdes Fontaines*, where is a pretty Fountain with four Dolphins; near it, in the Ditches, are kept Carps, very large, which they say are Eighty Years old. From whence you may go into a handsome Walk of Trees, at the end of which is the *Fountain-Bleau*, the Source of all the Waters, here so called, because discovered by a Dog called *Bleau*, in the Time of *Francis* the First, and from thence to the *Mall*, shorter and inferior to that in the Park at *St. James's*. From thence to the Great Pond, in the middle of which

which is a pleasant Island, with a pretty Summer-House, and at one corner a pretty little Garden: And from thence into the King's Garden, in the middle of which is a square Fountain, and at the further end a round one: Here is a fine Terrass, at the bottom of which is a fine Cascade, and One hundred Spouts of Water, which rise and fall into the Grand Canal, Six hundred Fathom long, and twenty broad; on the sides of which, are two lovely Walks of Trees; but one of *Fontain Bleau's* greatest Ornaments, is what they call the *Star*; a Fountain in the Centre of Eight Walks, beautify'd with lovely Trees and Hedges of an immense height, evenness, and Beauty. Two Leagues off, I saw the Hermitage of *Franchard*, which, as well as the whole Forest, is the wildest Place I ever saw; and yet *Fontain-Bleau* is much beneath my Expectation in all respects, but its Situation, which is pretty good. Here I saw King *James's* Queen, his Prince of *Wales*, and the Young Princess. From *Fontain-Bleau*, I came with the Court, Eighteen Leagues, to *Versailles*, the French Paradise, and Miracle of the World; but tho it is the finest Palace I ever saw, yet 'tis much more inferior to the Idea the French had given me of it. I shall

shall not pretend to give your Lordship a particular description of what would take up a Volume. But in few Words, it is seated at the bottom of three great *Avenues* of Trees; and was begun to be built in 1661, by this present *French King*; the Apartments are numerous and magnificent; the Front is of Brick, and the back-part of Stone; the Marble Stair-Case is very fine, and wants another opposite to it; the *Dauphin's* Closet contains many Curiosities; the King's Bed-Chamber is wainscoted with Deal, painted White, all Plain, without Pannels or Mouldings; his Bed of plain Crimson Velvet, edged with plain Gold Galoon. But the greatest Beauty of *Versailles*, is the Gallery of Audience for Ambassadors, tho' the great Silver Vases are taken away, yet is it of the utmost Magnificence; 'tis admirably Painted on the Top, representing all the glorious Actions of this present *French King*, one side is all Lookinglass, and the other Sash-Windows, facing the Great Canal and Gardens; which with the Paintings, Sculpture, and Imagery, compose the greatest Beauty of *Versailles*. As you enter 'em from the Porch, where there are Twenty four Pillars of admirable Marble; you come on the right Hand

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to the *Grotto's* of *Apollo*, where he is represented lying in *Thetis's* Bosom, while Six Nymphs wash him; beneath in the Parterre, there are two Fountains, in each of which are Four Tritons and Tritoneffes; on the right Hand is the Water Alley, which consists of two rows of Bassins, supported by Brazen Children, and Fountains spouting water quite cross the Walk; at the bottom of which is the Fountain of the Dragon; near which is the Triumphal-Arch, in the midst of a Wood; 'tis of Iron or Brass, gilt, with Seventeen Cascades, which encompass it: From whence, crossing the Water-Alley, you come to the three Fountains, a pretty melancholy Place; from whence you come to another pretty little Wood, where there is a Chestnut-Tree of Lead, in an Island, that out of every Leaf shoots forth Water: Further on, you come to the Basen of *Ceres*; she is represented in the middle, environ'd with Eight Cupids, and well gilded; further on you come to the Basen of *Flora*, representing the Spring; thence turning to the right, you will find your self in the middle of the Allee Royale, and in sight of the Great Canal, which is Eight hundred Fathoms long; in going to which, you pass by the Basen of *Apollo*,
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all of Brasses, adorn'd with Statues, and on the Canal are some Pleasure-Boats; from thence, on the left, you come to the Fountain of *Saturn*, adorn'd with Shells, and near it is *la Colonnade*, where are to be seen the finest Marble Pillars in the world; and hard by the Water-Gallery, adorned with two fine Marble Statues; thence on your way to the Palace, is the Basen of *Bacchus*, and near it the Labyrinth, beautified with Thirty eight of *Æsop's* Fables, which shoot forth Water in a wonderful manner; near it is the Basen of *Latona*: But the most haughty and august Appearance of *Versailles*, is from the Orangery, the finest in the world; but the Mall there is short, crooked, and contemptible: This is what is most remarkable in the Gardens at *Versailles*; and at the end of the Park, at *St. Cyr*, is the Commonalty of *Saint Cyr*, founded by *Madam de Maintenon*, Confident to *Lewis XIV.* consisting of Thirty six *Dames*, professed, Twenty four Converted Sisters, and Two hundred and fifty young Ladies, named by the King and his Successors, to be admitted between the Age of Seven and Twelve, but not to stay till they are past Twenty; a Foundation that will render the Courtizans of the Court of *France*, yet more imperi-

Imperious over the Men than they are already. This is to be *Maintenon's* Retreat, 'tis endow'd with Fifty thousand Livres *per An.* and *Maintenon's* Treasure will there be heaped up. Thence, in returning, you come to the Menagerie, formerly famous for divers sorts of Beasts kept there, which are now almost all destroy'd, and little to be seen: and overagainst it, at the other end of the Cross-Canal, is *Trianon*, built all of the most curious Marble, where is a fine Orangerie, and several beautiful Gardens.

Above a League from which is *Marly*, much beneath my Expectation, how odd soever may be its Scituation, built likewise by this present *French* King in 1679. 'Tis a square Building, built of Plaster, with Four Fronts, plain, all alike painted in *Fresco*: In the Middle is an Octangular Hall, in which all the Side-Rooms meet. Near it are Six smaller Pavillions, on each Side lovely Valley, whose Prospect is one of *Marly's* greatest Beauties. In the covered Walk in the Garden are several old Statues and surprising Water-works: And on the other Side of the House, a mighty Cascade, like a furious River, seems to drown all every Moment. On another Side a Mountain seems ready to overwhelm you; and on the other, you see the

the Aqueduct that brings the *Seine* Waters from the famous Machine about a League from hence, made cross a Branch of the *Seine*, and consisting of Fourteen Wheels, with Twenty eight Movements, with as many Pipes and Chains, by which the Water is forced up Five Hundred and Fifty Foot high into the Aqueduct, built on Thirty six great Arches, from whence, in Pipes, 'tis conveyed into the Water-works of *Versailles*, *Trianon* and *Marly*. Mr. *Deville* has a Thousand Pound Sterling per Annum to take care of this Machine

St. Ger-
mains.

From *Marly* 'tis a League to *St. Ger-
mains*, situated not unlike to *Windsor*, but in my Opinion inferior to it. The Prospect is charming. There are two Palaces, the Old one and the New one; the Old one founded by *Francis I.* and the New by *Henry IV.* Here resideth the unfortunate King *James* with his Family. The Apartments are spacious, well painted and gilded. But what I thought most remarkable are the Water-works: Here is a Dragon that instead of Fire vomits Water in a very furious manner; a Nymph playing on the Organs; the working Artificers; the *Tritons*, *Neptune*, *Perseus*, *Andromeda*, and *Orpheus* playing on the Musick, are fine Curiosities.

Two

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Two Leagues off is *Ruel*, a well built House, in a pleasant Grove or Wilderness, and pretty Water works.

A League from thence is *St. Clou*, a *St. Clou* Palace belonging to the *Duc d'Orleans*, the French King's only Brother. 'Tis a fine House, and has a Noble Gallery, painted in Imitation of that at *Versailles*. Its Gardens run along the Side of the River *Seine*; where are several Parterres, and a Cascade finer than that at *Versailles*. But what is *St. Clou*'s greatest Curiosity, and what must not be forgot to be seen by Strangers, is a counterfeit sort of China, so like the true, that they must have more Skill than I to distinguish the one from the other.

A League from *St. Clou* is *Meudon*, *Meudon* belonging to the Dauphine, whose enchanting Scituation is the best I ever saw in my Life, and when finished in the Perfection designed by the Dauphin, will exceed, in my Opinion, even *Versailles* it self.

From *Meudon* in about a League in your Way to *S. Denius*, you pass the charming Wood of *Bologne*, a pretty Summer Retreat for the *Parisians*; where is an Old House called *Madrid*, built *a la Moresco* by *Francis I.* On this Occasion, he had Leave, when taken Prisoner by the *Spaniards*, to come to *Paris* to seek his
Ran-

Ransom, on his Parole of returning to *Madrid* within a Year; in which Time he built this House according to the Model of the *Spanish* King's Palace at *Madrid*; and when the Time of his Return came; he went to this *Madrid* instead of the other; making a Jest of his Breach of Faith, which has been since but too much practised by the *French*.

About two Leagues farther, on the Skirts of *Paris*, is *Montmartre*, at the Foot of which are the *Plaisfrieres*; whence comes the famous Plaster of *Paris*: And at the Top a rich Nunnery, of One hundred and Twenty *Benedictin* Nuns. Here is the Grotto where, they say, *St. Dennis* sometimes retired. This Mountain is so called from the Number of Christians there martyred for the Faith; and among the rest *St. Dennis*, who, as the Story goes, and is firmly believed, when his Head was cut off, snatch'd it up in his Arms and ran with it Half a Mile, where he rested, and did so nine times, till he came to the Place where the Abbey of *St. Dennis* is now built, and there he fell down and died, a League and a Half from *Mont-Martre*. And as an Argument of the Truth of this Story, Nine several handsome Stone Crosses are erected at his nine, several Rest-

Resting-places between *Mountmartre* and the Abbey built by *Dagobert*, and since the usual Burying place of the Kings of *France*, though there are none of their Tombs comparable to those at *Westminster*: Those that seem to bid fairest for it, are those of *Henry II.* and *Katherine of Medices*, in a little Chappel of her own beginning, but not half finished. But what make here the greatest Noise, are the Relicks and Treasury; the most remarkable of which, are a large Gold Cross about Six Foot high, enriched with Precious Stones; another Gold Cross enriched with Rubies, Sapphires and Diamonds, and in which, as 'tis said, is a Piece of the true Cross, one of the Nails with which our Saviour was nailed to the Cross, one of the Nails of *St. John the Baptist*, some of the Virgin *Mary's* Milk and Hair, one of the Water-pots of *Cana in Galilee*; Relicks of the Prophet *Isaiah*; *St. Lewis's* Rich Crown, the Two Crowns of *Henry IV.* one of Gold, the other of Silver gilt; *Lewis XIII.* his Two Crowns, one of Gold, the other of Silver gilt; *St. Dennis's* Head covered with Gold, and enriched with Precious Stones; *St. Thomas's* Right Hand covered with Gold, and enrich'd with Precious Stones: The two Crowns of *Lewis XIV.* of which one is

Rarities at
St. Denis.

of Gold, and the other of Silver guilt ; the Crown of *Charlemain* ; *Nero's* Picture on an *Agat* ; *Judas's* Lanthorn ; the Sword of *Joan of Arc*, and many others of less Note ; which were all believed to be genuine by the *French* Gentleman in my Company, and was the Subject of our Conversation all the Way back to this Town, and he seemed to be concerned for my Conversion : For though the ordinary People are many times as clownish and uncivil as any what ever, and particularly Footmen, who go almost jigg by jole with you, serve you with their Hats on and pretend to be fit for all Offices ; and 'tis well if because he speaks *French*, (though starving) he thinks not himself a better Gentleman than his Master : Yet the Gentry, to People who are taken with the Appearances of Things, and want Penetration ; in Words, Grimace and Show, which cost nothing, and where their Interest is not concerned, seem to be the most Civil and Affable People in the World ; but you must have a great Care how you rely on their Professions, since, though they are never so caressing, familiar and endearing, as they will be at the first Sight, 'tis with the utmost Insincerity, and they ought never to be trusted

trusted ; for there is a general Lye in the Mouth of the whole Nation, and no such thing as Truth to be found amongst them; and 'tis their Interest, more than their Goodness, makes them so sweet upon the *Germans*, and other Strangers, who are more innocent than polite, and more honest than well-bred. Hence partly proceeds that Awe and that Aversion they have for the *English*, who they know abound more in Deeds than Words; and their Desire of a War with them, especially in the Soldiers. None have more Wit or better Expression in Conversation about Trifles ; but in Things that require deep Thought or Design, the Men are too light and frothy for that. Hence it is that they are more Cunning than Wise, and have much more Craft than Sense, and Sharpness than Honesty. I never saw such a general Viciousness among Men, such want of Faith, and such a general Corruption of Manners: They are eternally practising Tricks and forming Designs upon those who have not the same sly Genius and crafty Dispositions as themselves; though they are many times discovered and beat at their own Weapons. 'Tis a universal Custom for the Laity as well as Clergy, to impose upon the Eyes and Understanding of all others,

for they have so little Sense, to think they have more than all the World beside; and have so good an Opinion of themselves, as to think they have as much Wit as really they want: Their blind Side is Vanity; yet to compliment them on that Head, is but to make them insolent; and a rough commanding Carriage frights them into Submission. They are rediculously fond of Titles, and the meanest Tradesman in *Paris* will tell you he is the King's Artificer and Tradesman, and an Officer of the Court; and Thousands have the Impudence to write it on their Signs, though notoriously false to all their Neighbours; so this Humour sets them upon bragging of Themselves, their Families, Estates, King and Country, in such fulsom and prodigious Terms as is nauseous to all Strangers of common Sense, who suffer themselves not to be imposed upon. Their chief Talent is a Quickness of Thought and a clear Perception, which they call Penetration, which is of great use to them when they deal with those that want it. This Talent is pretty general among them, and yet more in the Women than the Men, which gives them that Empire and Arrogance they assume over the Men. But no French Vice is more seou-

seous, nor yet more general, than their Nastiness, which is to such a Degree as cannot be thought nor spoke of among other Nations without Abhorrence and Shame, and that in Eating, and all other things; though in their Drinking they have got the Custom among them of washing Glasses. But spitting on Knives to clean them; cleaning Shoes, Candlesticks, &c. with the Bed Curtains; stinking foul Linnen, and Plates, are to be reckoned among some of the cleanlier Accommodations you will meet with at their Ordinaries. Their Kitchens I have often really, without Aggravation, found stinking worse, and more nasty than a Privy in *England*; and a Privy there is so nasty, that the Porters and Grooms turn up in the Streets; while all the Men and Women of the better sort use Chamber-pots, which are boom'd out of the Windows of *Paris* every Night, to the no small Danger of the Passengers. And this nasty Humour is universal; and not only among the Men, but reigns also in the Women, whose Faces are generally White, or rather Yellow, with Black Hair, Rotten Complexion, and such Features as if Nature had doom'd them to be eternal Maids.. This puts all the Women of Quality on Painting, who are something shy of being saluted,

lest you rob them of some of their borrowed Complexion; though in other things there is no such thing as Impudence among them; and 'tis necessary they should be pretty coming, for otherwise their Faces and Linnen would generally prevent any Attack from the Mens Side: Yet are they so conceited, 'tis harder to convince them you are not in love with them, than that you are; and to have an Opportunity offer, and not immediately to lay hold of it in making Love, though never so much against ones Appetite, is a Crime they will never forgive. They are all Wh—s, or take a great deal of Pains to be thought so: If any are chaste, they bely themselves by their Behaviour; and I believe Modesty was never heard of among them, for surely some *London* Strumpets would blush to do what would pass here unregarded, or for a Piece of Good Breeding; especially among the Ladies of the Court, whose Freedoms are as much greater than others, as their Qualities or Titles. The Nobility are very numerous, and the most Noble and Polite People under Heaven: The Dukedoms and Peerages are generally entailed, (though some are not) and generally verified in Parliament: Those whose Letters are not verified in Parliament
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are only for Life, and have no Seat in Parliament. They are very fond of, and rather chuse to depend on some Office or Gaming (which is here universal) than any Manufacture or Trade, all sorts of which are here in decay, and all Commodities are very dear : So that, upon the most diligent Enquiry, I could not discover but that we do exceed in all sorts of Manufactures except Paper, (which Manufacture is also much decayed,) and Lookinglasses as well as in Foreign Trade; so that were there a free Trade, except as to the Importation of Wine, I cannot see but we should be Gainers thereby; though the *French King*, by violent Edicts, does his utmost to revive and encourage them, following the Maxims, 1st, Of hindering the Consumption of, and disparaging all Foreign Commodities; the Importation of which are prohibited, and all prohibited Goods sought after with the exactest Care, and all those Edicts executed with the utmost Severity: 2^{dly}, By setting up all sorts of New Manufactures, and encouraging all them more than Foreign Trade, unless that of Exportation; for in *Paris* it self there is little Consumption of Foreign Commodities, nor no such large Shops so filled with such great Magazines of all sorts

of Goods as at *London*; as well knowing, that the Encrease of Manufactures is the Encrease of the Riches of a Country. But yet, after all, this may prove ineffectual here, while Popery is triumphant; which, how beneficial soever it may be to Tyrannical Government, is demonstrably destructive to Trade, as well as to Learning, which is here in decay among all sorts of People, and that Notion of its Flourishing very false; and none more ignorant than the Clergy: For tho' the Bishops and Abbots have generally the gayest Liveries and Equipages of *Paris*, and 'tis necessary to maintain their Power over the People it should be so; yet their Heads are not the best furnish'd, nor is want of Learning any hindrance to Ecclesiastical Preferment, bestowed here altogether by Favour, and not by Merit; and which are so numerous, that tho' *Henry IV.* made an Edict of *Mortmain*, yet the Church is now possessed of a Fourth Part of the Kingdom, there being no less than Eighteen Archbishopsricks, One hundred and twelve Bishopsricks, Five hundred and forty Archpriories, Fourteen hundred and fifty Abbeys, Twelve thousand three hundred and twenty Priories, Six or Seven hundred Nunneries, Seven hundred Convents of Fryers,

Fryers, Two hundred and fifty nine Commendams of the Order of *Malta*, One hundred and thirty thousand Parish-Priests, besides Lay Officers and Attendants on several Orders: And some of the Bishopricks extreamly rich, as that of *Aux* in *Gascoin*, worth Forty thousand pound Sterling *per Annum*, that of the Abbey in *Languedoc* 15000*l.* Sterling *per Annum*, Abbey of *Cluniac* 50000 Crowns, and a Parish in *Paris* worth 2000*l.* *per Annum*; and yet with all their Riches, scarce can one find a Priest of tolerable Learning, or one that can give a Reason of his Faith, unless among the Jesuits, who are the Support of *Rome*, and are Men of great Parts, Sence and Learning. And hence is it, that they are every where entrusted with the Education of Youth, which they perform *Gratis*; and by forming the Minds of Men, advance their own Interest; as well as that of their own Religion, tho' they can scarce keep a tolerable Morality in the wicked vicious Humour of the *French*, tho' they make their utmost Efforts to Propagate their Religion, of which they are so great a Support, that 'tis agreed, That they alone are able to Establish the Religion they Profess, and in Time to root out any other; and indeed all the Plots and
Strata.

Stratagems against the Protestant Religion, and the Miseries that thereon ensue, are chiefly owing to that Society; and hence 'tis that they generally get to be Confessors, and the Directors not only of Mens Consciences, but of the Court and of the King, who is a Prince that among the other Talents he possesses, has that in Perfection, of choosing the ablest Ministers; He is of the largest size and well-made, has an imperious Look, a commanding Air and Mein, and His Actions bespeak His Genius; He is the Thirtieth King of *France*, from *Pharamond* the Founder of this Monarchy, the Fundamental Maxims of which are, That Women are incapable of Inheriting the Crown; that the Kingdom cannot be divided; that none but Papists are capable of inheriting the Crown; the Kings are stiled the Eldest Sons of the Church, and, by several of the Pope's Bulls, can't be Excommunicated; they are at Age at Fourteen. This King is called *Lewis* the Fourteenth, is the Son of *Lewis* the Thirteenth, and *Ann* of *Austria*, in the Articles of whose Marriage, was a Clause disabling the Issue to Inherit the Dominions of *Spain*: He was born at *St. Germain's en Laye* 26th of *August*; O. S. Fifth of *Sept.* N. S. 1638. succeeded his Father; 14th of *May*, N. S. 1651.

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was declared Major; Seventh September, N. S. 1651. Crown'd the Seventh of June, N. S. 1654. and married *Maria Teresa*, Daughter to *Philip* the Fourth, and Sister to *Charles* the Second, King of *Spain*, since dead; in which Marriage-Articles there is likewise a Clause disabling the Issue to Inherit the Dominions of *Spain*, of which the only surviving is the *Dauphin*, a Prince not so tall as his Father, but as well-made, and of a better humoured Countenance; he is named *Lewis*, born the First of Nov. 1661. N. S. Married 1680. *Maria Anna Victoria* decess'd, late Sister to the Elector of *Bavaria*, by whom he has Three Sons: The Eldest *Lewis* Duke of *Burgundy*, born at *Versailles* the Sixth of August, N. S. 1682. a Prince lean, wearing his own Hair, Imperious, and of great Ambition; married at *Versailles*, the Seventh of December, 1697. *Mary Adelaide*, Daughter of the Duke of *Savoy*, of a Beauty much inferior to her Wit or Ambition; born the Sixth of December, 1685. N. S. The Second, *Philip* Duke of *Anjou*, a Prince in Person something like the Duke of *Burgundy*, but of a sweeter and milder Disposition; born the Nineteenth of Dec. N. S. 1683. The Third, *Charles* Duke of *Berry*, born at *Versailles* the Thirty First of August, N. S. 1686. a very beautiful Prince.

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The King has only one Brother, *Philip Duke of Orleans*, low, and not so well made as the King; born the Twenty Second of *September*, N.S. 1640 married, in first Marriage, the last of *March*, 1661. to the Princess *Henrietta Ann* Daughter to *Charles* the First, by whom he had the late Queen of *Spain*, and the present Dutchess of *Savoy*, born the Twenty seventh of *August*, N.S. 1669. married the Tenth of *April*, N.S. 1684. His Second Wife is *Charlotte Elizabeth*, Daughter to the Elector Palatin, born in 1651. the Twenty Seventh of *May*, N.S. by whom he has *Philip Duke of Chartres*, born the Second of *August*, N.S. 1675. married the Eighteenth of *February*, 1692. *Frances Mary*, one of the King of *France's* Natural Daughters; and *Elizabeth Carlotta*, Dutchess of *Lorraine*; born the Thirty first of *September*, N.S. 1676. married at *Fountain-Bleau*, the Thirteenth of *October*, N.S. 1698. So that there is no want of Heirs to the Crown of *France*.

Next to the King in the Civil-Government, is the Chancellor of *France*, Mr. *Pontchartrain*, for Life. In the King's Anti-chamber, every *Monday* between Eleven and Twelve of the Clock at Noon, is set a Table cover'd with
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green Velvit, and before it a Chair for the King, on the left Hand of which stands Mr. *de Barbezieux*; and after the Council, between Twelve and One, all Persons, who have any Petitions to present to the King, come and lay them on this Table. They are all gathered up by a Secretary of *M. de Barbezieux*, who in Eight Days, or at most a Fort-nights Time, answers to each Petition, to which of the Four Secretaries that Petition is referr'd; and Eight Days after, that Secretary makes known his Majesties Pleasure therein, and the Resolution taken in the Cabinet-Council: which is the highest Council, and the first Spring of this Great King's Government, and is compos'd of the King, the Dauphin, the Duke of *Burgundy*, the Duke of *Orleans*, Madam *de Maintenon*, the Chancellor Monsieur *de Pontchartrain*, the Duke of *Beauvilliers*, Minister of State, and Governour of the Children of *France*; Monsieur *Pontchartain*, Minister and Secretary of State, the Chancellors Son; Marquis of *Pomponne* Minister of State, Superintendent General of the Posts of *France*, and Secretary of State; Marq. of *Torcy* Minister and Secre. of State: For Foreign Affairs, this is the First, Highest, and Cabinet Council, where are transacted the most Important Affairs of the Kingdom. Next

is the *Council of State*, or of *Dispatches*, held in the King's Chamber, in Presence of his Majesty, the *Dauphin*, the Duke of *Orleans*, the Chancellor, the Duke of *Beauvilliers*, the four Secretaries of State, and those in remainder, and Monsieur *Pomponne*: This is for *Domestick Affairs* of the Provinces; and the four Secretaries of State, the Marquis of *Chateauneuf* Marquis of *Barbezieux*, Marquis of *Torcy*, and the Count of *Pontchartrain*, execute its Resolutions, each in his several District, as followeth: *Chateauneuf*, the Protestants of *France*; *Barbezieux*, *War* *Taillon*, and the Artillery; *Torcy*, Foreign Affairs; *Pontchartrain*, King's Household and Pensions, Clergy, the Fleet and Gallies, Foreign and Inland Trade, *West* and *East-India* Companies, Foreign Colonies and Manufactures. Next is the *Council of the Finances* or *Treasury*, where is the King, the *Dauphin*, the Chancellor, the Duke of *Beauvilliers* being Chief of this Council, Monsieur *Philipeaux de Pontchartrain*, Comptroller General of the Treasury, Monsieur *Dagueffau*, and Monsieur *de Pomeroy*. Next the *Privy-Council of State*, or of *Parties*, held by the Chancellor in the Council-Chamber, where the King is never present, but only Twenty one Ordinary

dinary Councillors of State, and the Master of the Requests, Comptroller-General of the Finances, Intendants of the Finances, and twelve extraordinary Councillors of State; and this is a sort of a Supreme Court for dissolving Decrees of Parliament, settling clashing Jurisdictions between Supream Courts, &c. Next the *Great Council*, compos'd of a First President, Eight Presidents, Fifty four Councillors, and the Proctor General, and has a large Jurisdiction, and in many Cases even of Ecclesiastical Affairs, which yet are under the direction of the Eighteen Archbishops, and One hundred and twelve Bishops, and the Nineteen Universities. Next are the *Thirty eight* General Governments, something like our Lord Leiutenants. Then there are in *France* Fourteen Parliaments, or Sovereign Courts of Justice, and of Appeal from all Subordinate and inferior Courts. Next is the King's *Exchequer*, branch'd out into the *Chambers of Accounts*, of which there are Eight, and are much of the nature of the Board of *Green-cloath* in *England*. The *Courts of Aids*, of which there are Five, and which, like the *Exchequer Court* in *England*, judge *en dernier ressort* of *Tailles*, *Aids*, *Gabells*, *Impositions*, and of all the Farms and Rights of the King; and the *Courts* of
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of the Money, regarding the *Mints*, which are 24, and are distinguished by the Letters of the Alphabet. The Court of *Woods and Forests*, is where all Affairs relating to them are discussed. The Generality of the Treasurers General of *France*, of which there are 33, and are the Offices of the General Treasurers of *France*, established for the facilitating the Receipt of the Monies arising from the *Taille, Taillon*, and *Subsistance*. In *France*, in each Generality, is an Intendant, who regulates all Things relating to Justice, Policy, and the Finances; who has the Care of Collecting the King's Taxes, which are here very great, and are raised in this manner: The King, in his Cabinet-Council, resolves what Sum to be Levied, and thereupon Commissions are sent to the General Treasurers of the Generalities of the Kingdom, who make a Division of the Sum to be levied, proportionable to the Ability of the several Elections under them; which is sent to the King, who thereupon sends a Commission to the Officers of each Election, by which they are ordered and enabled to raise such a Sum in their respective Districts. These Officers meet and make the Registers of Taxes, whereof each Parish has one sent it
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whereupon the Inhabitants make choice of one or more of them to raise the Sum so assessed: These are called Collectors, and they tax each Inhabitant according to his Estate; and tho' they are forbidden to do it, yet they often do tax it very unequally.

In the Election of *Paris* are 440 Parishes; and at *Paris* there is a *Court of Elections*, for determining Differences arising in that District; but from it there lies an Appeal to the *Court of Aids*.

All the Provinces of *France* are Countries of Elections, except the *Pais d'Estats*; which are *Bretagne*, *Burgundy*, *Dauphiné*, *Provence*, and *Languedoc*; and even there they retain only the Shadow and meer Pageantry of Liberty, since tho' what they pay is called a *Don gratuit*, yet it is as much forced and constrained, and their Taxes as large and severe, as over the rest of the Kingdom: The chief of which are, first, the *Taille*; a Tax granted at first by the States, but now a Tax *Jure Divino*, and is Real, Personal, and Mix'd; and tho' it be imposed only on the Body of the People, or the Third Estate, (for the Church, the Nobility, and Gentry, all the King's Officers, the Burghers of

L. *Paris*,

Paris, and other free Cities, are exempted from it) yet does it amount to about Four Millions *Sterling*, and is levied with extream Rigour. Next the *Taillon*, created by *Henry II.* 1549. and amounts to One third of the *Taille*. Next the *Subsistance*, or Contributions for Exemption from Winter-Quarters; which amounts to a very great Sum. Next the *Gabelle*, or Monopoly of Salt; the Profits of which is only in the King, and is so great, that what costs the King at most but 4 *s.* 6 *d.* *Sterling*, is sold for 256 *l.* *Sterling*; and in those Places into which it is likely to be fraudulently imported, set Quantities are imposed on the People on pain of Military Execution. But the Duties on Salt were sold by *Henry II.* to the Inhabitants of the Countries of *Poitou*, *Xaintogne*, *Aunis*, *Angoulême*, Higher and Lower *Limosin*, and the Higher and Lower March of *Perigord*, in 1553; and for that Reason, those Countries are called the Countries of Free Salt. Next the *Aids*, or *Entries*, a general Excise on all Goods that enter *Paris*; tho' the *Aid*, properly speaking, is the Excise on Wine alone, which amounts to 9 *l.* 4 *s.* a Ton, and is more than the Price of it. These *Entries* raise a mighty Sum. Then there are

are the Customs on Foreign Trade; the *Paulette*, or Tax on the Death of the Hereditary Law-Officers. Notwithstanding which, the Gentlemen of the Long Robe are all here the King's Slaves, entirely in his Interest; and at his Command; tho' they make a very great Figure, and have splendid Equipages. Besides all this, and a free Gift from 'em every Five Years, the Clergy pay One fourth of all their Income every Year. Add to this the Duties on Stamp'd Paper, and that on Plate Mark'd, lett for 25000 *l. per Annum*; the Duties on Pewter, Stockings, Hats, Iron, Hackney-Coaches; those to maintain the Poor, and keep clean the Streets, which the King has taken on himself; those on Tobacco, lett for 60000 *l. per Annum*; the Capitation Tax; besides the strange jobbing of the Coin, raised his Revenues in the Year 1672 to 170000000, that is about 1500000 *l. Sterling*, but have ever since still diminished. 'Tis with this mighty Revenue that he is enabled to keep in Pay such Numbers of Men by Sea and Land; the chief of which are, first, his Guards, consisting of Four Companies of *Scotch* and *French* Life-guard, the 100 *Swiss*, the Company of *Gendarmerie* on Horseback of

240, besides Officers. The Foot are the Regiment of *French* Guards, of Thirty Companies; two of Dragoons, each 124 Men; one of *Swiss* Guards, of Twelve Companies; besides the two Companies of Musquetaires on Horseback, each of above 250, and 200 Gentlemen: These, with a Company of Grenadiers, are what they call the King's Household. The Army is commanded by ten Marshals, who are all Generals, and command according to Priority of Commission, and have the Cognizance of all Causes relating to the Soldiery, even for Money borrowed, or Goods sold; and under them, the Grand *Prevots* for Spies, Traytors, and Deserters, whose Deputies hang Highwaymen, but are not severe to prevent Robbing in the Streets of *Paris*, which is a Scandal to this Government. And for a Fleet, 150 Men of War, under the Command of the Admiral of *France*, the Count de *Toulouse*, one of the King's Natural Sons, who hath all the Marine Jurisdiction in these particular Chambers of the Admiralty at *Bordeaux*, *Rochelle*, *Olone*, *St. Maloes*, *Rochfort*, *Rouen*, *St. Vallery*, *Abbeville*, *Monstreuil*, *Boulogne*, *Calais*, and *Dunkirk*, and has the Tenth of all Prizes. The chief Ports and Arsenals for the

the King's Navy are at *Dunkirk*, *Brest*, *Rochfort*, *Port-Louis*, *Toulon*, and *Ha-vre-de-grace*, and *Marseilles* for the Gallies. There are 1100 Sea-Officers, 60000 Seamen, and 101 independant Companies of the Marine; and 1000 Marine-Guards, who are instructed at the King's Charge; and 40 Gallies, under the Command of the General of the Gallies, the Duke of *Vendosme*.

I would have given you some Account of the many Fortresses, Fortifications, and Garrisons, belonging to *France*, had not I touch'd on 'em formerly; and indeed 'tis difficult to give an exact Account, thro' the great Shineness of the *French* to shew their Fortifications; which is also practised thro' all *Holland* and *Flanders*, and, I believe, the World; but only our brave Folly is so great, that for a Dozen of Ale they will let a Foreigner walk the Curtain of *Portsmouth*, and lead him thro' all the Secrets, the Strengths and Weaknesses of any Fortrefs: A *French* Crown fathoms the Walls of *Dover-Castle*, and sounds the *Peer*; as a *French* Lieutenant of a Man of War told me himself, he had sounded all the Coasts of *England*: Which is exposing the Weakness of the Nation, a Weakness none but our selves

selves are guilty of. This is the general Scheme of the *French* Government, which is very severe, and as arbitrary as any under Heaven, and yet best for the *French*, whose Natures are too wicked, and too insolent to be trusted with Liberty; they are *pessima ridens optima flens*, and hence it is that they are so much at Union; for assuredly, considering the Modern Humour of the *French*, there can't be a better Government for 'em, nor one more sharp, ingenious, or better instructed, or more suitable to the Nature of the People.



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